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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Council Continues Meeting in Cairo

Iraq Asks Help in Releasing Assets

NC2004152493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Apr (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said that his talks today with Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf dealt with the implementation of the Arab League Council's resolutions.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the Iraqi foreign minister has asked the Arab League to endeavor to release the Iraqi assets that are frozen in Western banks. The Iraqi minister said this would enable his country to pay its share and arrears to the Arab League's budget and purchase food and medicine. He pointed out that the Security Council permits the purchase of food and medical supplies in accordance with its resolutions adopted on the Gulf crisis.

The secretary general said that releasing the Iraqi assets should be discussed with the Security Council and that this is also is contingent on a decision by the Security Council Sanctions Committee.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said Iraq is ready to pay its arrears to the Arab League budget if its frozen assets are released.

On the Kuwaiti prisoners issue, the secretary general said that the Arab League Secretariat is waiting for information from Iraq concerning the files the secretariat has received via the Red Cross. He noted that Iraq has promised to send its reply.

On his meeting with the Sudanese foreign minister, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the talks dealt with the situation in Somalia and the implementation of Arab League resolutions.

Syria's al-Shar' Meets Ministers

JN1804132093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal on the sidelines of the Arab League Council meetings in Cairo. The Syrian ambassador to Cairo, Dr. 'Isa Darwish, and the Saudi ambassador attended.

Conversation during the meeting revolved around the latest developments in the peace process and the Damascus coordination meeting among the Arab parties involved in the peace process which will resume in Damascus tomorrow. They also exchanged views on the joint Syrian-Saudi committee meeting, the Gulf Cooperation Council meeting, the meeting of the Damascus Declaration states, and the situation in the region in general.

Al-Shar' also received today Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya. They discussed the situation in the region and reviewed the outcome of the Damascus coordination meeting among the Arab parties involved in the peace process and issues of mutual concern. They also exchanged views on some of the topics on the agenda of the Arab League Council session, which is held on the level of foreign ministers.

The Arab League Council's 99th session was resumed today in a closed meeting, attended by the ministers and the heads of Arab delegations. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended the meeting.

Council Concludes Session

LD2004160093 Rabat MAP in English 1302 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, Apr. 20 (MAP)—Arab countries renewed backing to the Arab side in the peace negotiations with Israel and to efforts meant to end the protracted Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of the land for peace principle. At the end of its two-day 99th session chaired by Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali, the Arab League Ministerial Council condemned Israel's refusal to abide by UN Security Council Resolution 799 demanding the return of the 400 Palestinians deported by Israel last December to southern Lebanon and invited the Security Council to take urgent measures to secure implementation by Israel of the 1949 Geneva Convention on protection of civilians in time of war. The Arab League in its behind-doors meeting also upheld the dispatching of international observers to the occupied Arab territories.

On the occupation by Israel of some regions in southern Lebanon, the council supported Lebanese efforts meant to extend authority over all the territory and to measures to implement the al-Ta'if covenant. In the same vein, Arab foreign ministers recommended to foreign ministers of the tripartite committee to carry on Arab and international contacts with a view to resuming assistance to Lebanon.

The Ministerial Council also adopted recommendations on the civil war in Somalia calling warring parties to cooperate with the UN and regional organisations to implement the reconciliation accord reached last March in Addis Ababa.

On the air and military embargo against Libya, the Arab countries expressed solidarity with Libya and support to efforts to reach a peaceful solution based on respect of Libya's national sovereignty and provisions of international law. The UN secretary general was invited to seek a peaceful way out to the crisis opposing Libya to three western counties while the US, Britain and France were urged to positively respond to the Libyan initiative and avert an upsurge of tension.

The council further stressed the importance of promoting cooperation between the African continent and

the Arab world and called the secretary general to carry on contacts with his peer from the Organisation of African Unity to this end. On the occupation by Iran of some islands of the United Arab Emirates, the council renewed adherence to UAE sovereignty over the islands and denounced their occupation by Iran as illegal.

'Arafat Holds Talks in Amman Before Damascus Meeting

JN2004190693 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Report by Jordan Television political correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyab]

[Excerpt] Amman was the scene of intense political contacts today, focusing on the obstacles hindering a resumption of the Middle East peace talks. President Yasir 'Arafat of the state of Palestine and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa are visiting Amman as part of continuing coordination and consultation among Arab parties.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received both Mr. 'Arafat and 'Amr Musa, who was carrying a message from President Mubarak to His Majesty King Husayn regarding Arab issues, including the Palestinian question and Middle East peace process. This was followed by a plenary session grouping Crown Prince Hasan, the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Court, the acting foreign minister, President 'Arafat and the Palestinian ambassador in Amman, and 'Amr Musa and the Egyptian charge d'affaires in Amman. They discussed the peace process in a constructive spirit, the Palestinian people's plight, and the need for intra-Arab coordination and consultations.

[Begin video recording] [Hasan] There is no end to the famous practices of the Israeli occupation obstacles, including creating harsh living conditions for the population under occupation, the deportee issue, and Jerusalem. Arab governments and Palestinian leaders are undertaking a comprehensive and full assessment of the situation. This is so that it cannot be said that the Arabs shirked their historic responsibility. Given Israel's arrogance we had to undertake this assessment, the outcome of which should soon yield results.

['Arafat] We held a three-way Jordanian-Egyptian-Palestinian session comprising my brother His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the brother prime minister, the Egyptian foreign minister, and myself. We raised all issues of interest to the Arab nation at this crucial time—to be or not to be. We are up against international as well as local challenges—to be or not to be under the new world order.

[Dhiyab] Your Excellency the President: The decision on whether or not to join the ninth round of peace talks is linked to the removal of difficulties and obstacles; do you expect these to be cleared, or do you think written assurances will be forthcoming from the United States?

['Arafat] We insist on receiving U.S. assurances on the terms of reference...

[Dhiyab, interrupting] Written?

['Arafat] Without a doubt; or, at any rate, public; assurances regarding the terms of reference and the land-for-peace formula, UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the Palestinian people's political and legitimate rights, and Jerusalem.

[Dhiyab] Mr. 'Amr Musa: What do you think will come out of the current contacts and efforts to set a date for resuming the talks?

[Musa] There is a good deal of optimism there.

[Dhiyab] What makes you so upbeat while Israel is so intransigent?

[Musa] The Arab interlocutors are determined to arrive at a united stand, take a careful and judicious look at things, and consider all the relevant circumstances. Most important, we will adopt a unified position on the peace and negotiating process and the guidelines on which it was launched, namely the land-for-peace formula and the retrieval of Palestinian popular rights. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Seen Facing 'Immense Pressure'

JN2104062393 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Apr 93 pp 1, 5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Excerpt] Amman—Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat Tuesday held extensive talks with Jordanian leaders and Palestinian peace negotiators seeking a way to resume Palestinian participation in the Middle East peace process. A decision to attend the talks, however, is expected Wednesday.

Mr. 'Arafat, who held talks with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa—who also delivered to him a message from President Husni Mubarak—was having extended discussions late Tuesday with members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations.

Palestinian sources said Mr. 'Arafat was facing immense pressure from some of the delegates who were demanding explicit Israeli and American undertakings before agreeing to return to the negotiating table.

The sources said the delegates were arguing that in the absence of such undertakings, it would be very difficult for them to make the Palestinian constituency in the occupied territories to accept Palestinian participation in the peace talks.

"They are saying that they could not very well go back to their constituents and tell them the bottom lines of the Americans and Israelis were nowhere near the minimum

requirements of the peace process and Palestinian participation," said one of the sources.

"They are demanding something more tangible in terms of American assurances and Israeli undertakings, particularly in view of the (three-week-old) closure of the occupied territories," said the source, who preferred anonymity.

As Mr. 'Arafat remained closeted with the delegates in Amman's Intercontinental Hotel's rooftop restaurant, the foreign ministers and senior officials of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the PLO awaited the outcome of the discussions which would determine Arab participation in the ninth round of bilateral negotiations with Israel.

As April 20, the date originally set for round nine of the peace talks to commence, drew to a close, Palestinian sources said American "assurances" that "things would fall in place for the Palestinians" as soon as they said the "magic yes" to return to the talks were not enough to justify a return to the peace talks. But, they added, Arab pressure had left no choice for the Palestinians but to attend the talks, now tentatively set for April 27.

"It was not the American pressure nor the Israeli intransigence that twisted the hand of chairman 'Arafat," said one of the sources, adding: "Heavy pressure was applied on Mr. 'Arafat in Cairo and Latakia (in Syria where Mr. 'Arafat met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad Sunday)."

The source, a member of Mr. 'Arafat's "inner circle," was speaking to the JORDAN TIMES in a telephone interview from Tunis hours before Mr. 'Arafat met with the Palestinian negotiators in Amman.

The peace talks went into limbo after Israel expelled more than 400 Palestinians to Lebanon in December and the Palestinian delegation, guided by the PLO, demanded their immediate repatriation. Since then, the Palestinians have, however, softened their stand to accept a phased return of the expellees but are seeking more substantial assurances related to the core issues on the negotiating table and the situation on the ground in the occupied territories.

"There was an American promise of adherence to the letter of assurances and the Israelis were expected to come up with some sort of a statement saying that expulsion is not a policy and is only used in cases where security issues are at state," said the PLO sources on condition of anoymity.

Mr. 'Arafat's decision to announce Palestinian attendance of round nine in Washington is linked to Arab pressure to go and the overtures made by Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal to resume financial support to both the PLO and the people in the occupied territories, Palestinians close to the PLO and the negotiating team say.

The conviction that the U.S. Administration would make significant overtures to the Palestinians was underscored by Mr. Musa of Egypt, who told Jordan Radio Tuesday that "the U.S. Administration has promised to announce specific measures which it will carry out if the peace process resumes."

One of the 80 Amman-based members of the Palestine National Council (PNC) who met with Mr. 'Arafat on Tuesday for a three-hour session told the JORDAN TIMES: "President al-Asad told Mr. 'Arafat that the Arab parties are going (to the talks) and that if the Palestinians knew what was good for them they would go too."

Despite the heated debate in Amman Tuesday, most Palestinian sources said it was a foregone conclusion that the Palestinian decision would be "yes" to go, but might be conditional on a further delay of the talks by up to one week.

Some hardline critics of the PLO chairman went to the extent of describing the Amman deliberations as an "exercise in theatrics."

"Arafat alone decides if the Palestinians are going or not; he does not need to consult anyone—that's just a show for the public," asserted an official of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), which opposes the peace process in its present format and conditions.

At least half of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks appears to share part of the PFLP argument, and they are the ones demanding more explicit U.S. assurances and Israeli undertakings, according to the sources.

"The Palestinian negotiating team will lose all credibility among the people of the occupied territories if we return to the peace talks without any improvement of conditions on the ground," said negotiator Ghassan al-Khatib before leaving for Washington for talks with U.S. State Department officials earlier this month.

Sources close to the negotiating team said Tuesday night that Mr. al-Khatib, along with another six of his colleagues in the delegation, including chief negotiator Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi may not attend the talks if better terms are not assured regardless of the attendance of other members of the 14-member team to the bilateral talks.

While Mr. 'Arafat is still seeking written assurances from the U.S., PLO insiders believe that the Saudi bid to reinstitute the imposition of a five percent PLO tax on Palestinians living in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf and a pledge to reinstitute $42 million of monthly support for the Palestinians living under occupation is a lever for the cash-strapped Palestinian community living under occupation and for the PLO leadership in Tunis.

"This aid will alleviate some of the economic suffering of the Palestinians under occupation and thus we have gotten at least some of the concessions we were asking for," said a PLO official.

Members of the Palestinian negotiating team who met with U.S. State Department officials earlier this month discussed financial and economic aid to the Palestinians

under occupation. "Aid from the Gulf was mentioned on our agenda with Americans," said one Palestinan advisor to the talks.

But even with such aid some Palestinian negotiators are likely to stay away from the talks without more gestures from the Americans and Israelis before April 27.

"Some of them are just plain scared that the American promises will turn out to be empty. If they are, the negotiators who go to Washington may not be able to face the people in the occupied territories ever," said a source close to the delegation.

"Too many Palestinians remember American promises to protect Palestinian civilians in Lebanon after the PLO left. They remember that those promises bore fruit in Sabra and Shatila," said the PLO source referring to the massacre of hundreds of Palestinian civilians in the two camps in Beirut. [passage omitted]

Ministers Reopen Meeting on Peace Talks in Damascus

Lebanon's Buwayz on 'Sensitive' Situation

JN2004083193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0437 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] On the sidelines of the meetings of the foreign ministers of the Arab states directly concerned with the peace process, who will resume their meetings in Damascus today, radio correspondent 'Imad Naddaf has met with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. Asked about Arab consultations and the intensive contacts held within the framework of the meetings of the Arab League Council, Buwayz said:

[Begin Buwayz recording] Naturally, these coordination meetings entail much effort because the peace negotiations are characterized by great accuracy and significance. There have been international and regional developments since the Israeli and U.S. elections, and it is natural for us to demand further explanations and information on the U.S. and Israeli positions and also on the concept of the peace process. Stemming from this, it is natural that these coordination meetings require all these efforts and accuracy.

In fact, the Arab League meeting, like any other conference, has afforded the opportunity of sideline consultations. Over the past two days, the Palestinian and other Arab delegations held several contacts which may have yielded new facts, or clarified other facts. I believe that tonight or tomorrow morning, after thoroughly discussing all the elements that have become available to us, we will make a clear and unified decision on whether or not to participate [in the ninth round of peace talks]. [end recording]

We asked Buwayz about the atmosphere of the Damascus coordination meeting and the decisions which may be made. He said:

[Begin recording] [Buwayz] The Damascus meeting is, of course, a basic turning point in the course of the peace process following a lengthy stalemate. This meeting may determine whether the [Madrid peace] conference will be given new momentum and whether it will achieve its objectives. There is no doubt that the circumstances of the Damascus meeting in particular are especially important in view of Damascus' position in the Arab arena and its basic role in this process. Undoubtedly, the situation is sensitive. A political philosopher once said that if war is a military or sanguineous policy, then peace is a political battle. No doubt, the requirements of both peace and peace negotiations call for great decisionmaking, unification of stands, and awareness of the supreme national and pan-Arab interest.

[Naddaf] Thank you, Mr. Faris Buwayz.

[Buwayz] Thank you. [end recording]

Egypt's Musa Comments After Arrival

JN2004172693 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1655 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Damascus, 20 Apr (SANA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa arrived in Damascus this evening to attend the coordination meeting of Arab states directly concerned with the peace process, which will resume in Damascus this evening.

'Amr Musa was welcomed upon arrival by Assistant Foreign Minister Raslan 'Allush, senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the Egyptian ambassador in Damascus accompanied by embassy staff.

In reply to reporters' questions, Musa said: "All the contacts held thus far indicate that we are walking along a proper and positive path."

Musa added: "Common views will produce extremely important and numerous positive repercussions in all directions."

Coordination Meeting Resumes

JN2004184493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1826 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Damascus—The foreign ministers of Arab states directly concerned with the peace process resumed their coordination meetings in Damascus at 2030 today. Delegations of the participating states attended.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' led the Syrian delegation, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa led the Egyptian delegation, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz led the Lebanese delegation, Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir led the Jordanian delegation, and PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi led the Palestinian delegation.

The foreign ministers of Arab states directly concerned with the peace process held a meeting this evening, during which they resumed discussion of the peace

process and the obstacles facing it. It was agreed to form a committee of the five Arab parties to draft a final statement.

Final Session Expected 21 Apr

JN2004204793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Damascus—The foreign ministers of Arab states directly concerned with the peace process resumed their coordination meetings in Damascus at 2030 today. [passage omitted]

Following the meeting, [Syrian] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' told reporters that the atmosphere of the meeting was good and that there was total conviction that a unified Arab position should be adopted after completing these latest contacts and consultations. A committee was formed to draft a final statement, which will be issued tomorrow. The final session will be held at 1100 tomorrow, Wednesday.

Al-Shar' hosted a dinner banquet in honor of the foreign ministers of states directly concerned with the peace process and of the members of their delegations. Senior Foreign Ministry officials attended the banquet.

Call for Full Participation Expected

NC2104053593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Ladies and Gentlemen, we have just received the following news from the central newsdesk:

Sources close to the Damascus meeting of foreign ministers of Arab cordon states say that the meeting's final statement, which will be issued today, will contain a unanimous position calling for full Arab participation in the meetings of the ninth round of Arab- Israeli talks in Washington on 27 April.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said the statement would be positive and constructive.

Meeting Resumes 21 Apr

JN2104093093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0915 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] The foreign ministers of the Arab states directly concerned with the peace process resumed their coordination meeting at 1200 today. The members of the delegations of the participating countries attended the meeting.

The Syrian delegation is headed by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. The Egyptian delegation is headed by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. The Lebanese delegation is headed by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. The Jordanian delegation is headed by Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, and the Palestinian delegation is headed by PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi. PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat participated in the meeting.

'Ashrawi Says Delegation 'United'

NC2104100993 Paris AFP in English 0936 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Damascus, 21 Apr (AFP)—Arab states and the Palestinians were set to announce their decision here Wednesday on whether to rejoin the Middle East peace talks with Israel after a break of more than four months.

PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat, on arrival from Amman where the Palestinian leadership held talks throughout the night, told reporters only that the "response will be in Damascus."

He was greeted by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who has also said the Arab decision would be announced Wednesday, after almost a week of consultations in Damascus, Cairo and Amman.

According to informed sources, the Arabs will lay down conditions for their return to the peace initiative, scheduled to have resumed on Tuesday in Washington but delayed mainly because of Palestinian grievances.

Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the Palestinians are expected to call for a rapid solution to the deportee affair and for Israel to pledge to respect U.N. land-for-peace resolutions, the sources said.

'Arafat said earlier in Amman that the Arabs also sought "public assurances" from the United States as the key sponsor of the peace initiative, stalled since Israel expelled 400 Palestinians in mid-December.

The spokeswoman of the Palestinian peace delegation, Hanan 'Ashrawi, said meanwhile that the overnight talks in Amman between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the peace negotiators were "frank and responsible."

The delegation is "united and none of its members intends to withdraw," she told AFP.

'Ashrawi was reacting to Jordanian press comments in which Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy leader of the team, was quoted as threatening to step down "if the PLO decides to return to the negotiating table immediately."

The Palestinians delayed the resumption of the peace talks after they complained Israel had failed to resolve the deportee crisis and to reopen the occupied territories, sealed for the last three weeks.

But 'Arafat has said the peace talks could resume on April 27, a week later than scheduled.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, whose country already has a peace treaty with Israel and is helping Washington to revive the talks, was also attending the Damascus meeting on Wednesday.

Ministers Propose 27 Apr for Talks

JN2104121593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1137 GMT 21 Apr 93

["Text" of statement issued by the coordination meeting of the Arab parties participating in the peace process in Damascus on 21 April, read by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'—recorded]

[Text] The foreign ministers of the Arab states participating in the bilateral peace talks—the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Republic of Lebanon, Palestine, the Arab Republic of Syria—with the participation of the foreign minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, resumed their coordination meeting between 16-21 April 1993, which had been left open since 29 March 1993, pending the outcome of contacts and consultations between the Arab parties involved and the cosponsors of the conference, so as to eliminate the obstacles placed by Israel in the way of peace.

The ministers welcomed brother President Yasir 'Arafat's attendance of the final session of their coordination meeting in Damascus on 21 April. They consider this attendance an expression of the Palestinian people's commitment to the unity of the Arab position in the battle for a just, comprehensive peace.

The ministers reviewed the outcome of contacts held recently in the Arab and international arenas in connection with the peace process and the obstacles to it. They also listened to reports submitted by delegates of the Arab parties participating in the peace process, who held prior consultations between 13-16 April in Washington.

The foreign ministers acquainted themselves with the pledges and assurances made by the U.S. Administration in order to advance the peace process and make it succeed.

The ministers also discussed the serious deteriorating situation in the occupied Arab territories as a result of Israel's escalation of the policy of suppression, the measures of isolating the occupied Arab territories, especially the holy city of Jerusalem, the imposition of siege on citizens, blowing up houses, Israel's continued violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, as well as Israel's noncompliance with Security Council Resolution 799 stipulating the immediate return of all Palestinian deportees.

The ministers also discussed the deterioration resulting from the repeated attacks and continued shelling of southern Lebanon, the demolition of houses, and killing, arrest, and displacement of citizens.

In light of the above, and after exhaustive deliberations, the ministers have agreed on the following:

1. The participating Arab parties stress their adherence to full solidarity and coordination out of their faith in a common destiny and the importance of a unified Arab position, and in order to contribute to the realization of the objective of an honorable, just, and comprehensive peace in the region.

2. The Arab parties engaged in the peace process reiterate their commitment to a comprehensive and just peace based on full implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 calling for Israel's withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and Security Council Resolution 425 calling for Israel's unconditional withdrawal from Lebanese territories. The Arab parties also reiterate their commitment to a comprehensive solution on all fronts, affecting all parties.

3. The participating delegations condemn the continuing Israeli acts of aggression on Lebanese territory and the continuing policy of settlement, deportations, and other inhumane Israeli practices in the rest of the occupied Arab territories, like home demolitions, the killing of Palestinian civilians, the sealing of Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza strip, and demand an immediate cessation of these measures.

The participating delegations assert that resistance to Israeli occupation is a legitimate right of self-defence enshrined in the UN Charter and international law. The participating delegations call on the Security Council and the cosponsors of the peace process to take such measures that will protect the Palestinian population under occupation and make Israel desist from such practices, the continuation of which, besides being a gross violation of the rules of human and international law, poses a real threat to and could wreck the peace process. They hold Israel responsible for that before the international community.

4. The participating Arab parties express their serious concern for the peace process reaching a dangerous crossroads by virtue of the successive obstacles created by Israel in its path. They warn Israel not to take advantage of the Arab interlocutors' positive approach and concern for and adherence to the peace process and so persist in its obstructionist and escalating policies and flouting resolutions of international legitimacy and the rules of international law.

5. The participating Arab parties call on the co-sponsors of the peace process to adopt the necessary stands and steps that would put an end to Israel's violation of the resolutions of international legitimacy and international law. They also demand that the foundations, resolutions, and principles on which the peace process was based be applied to all participating parties and on all fronts of the Arab-Israeli conflict, particularly Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of returning the occupied Arab territory in return for peace and guaranteeing the Palestinian people's legitimate national and political rights. They also call on the two co-sponsors to put an end to Israel's occupation of the Lebanese territories by fully implementing Security Council Resolution 425. These parties call on the United States to

reaffirm its condemnation of the policy of deportation and to force Israel to abide by Security Council Resolution 799 and return all Palestinian deportees to their homeland and not to resort to deportations in the future.

6. Out of the Arab parties' eagerness to give a new opportunity for the success of the efforts to establish a just and comprehensive peace, in light of the U.S. announcement that it is committed to the role of a full partner in pushing the peace process forward in accordance with the foundations, principles, and resolutions on which it is based, taking into consideration the results of the recent contacts, and with the aim of attaining tangible substantial progress within a reasonable period of time, the ministers propose to the co-sponsors of the peace process to begin the ninth round on 27 April 1993. In this regard, the ministers stress that all pledges and assurances presented by the U.S. Administration vis-a-vis the declared stands and practical measures should be implemented as of the issuance of this statement.

7. The ministers agreed to hold the next coordination meeting in Amman.

Committee on Libyan-Western Crisis Opens Meeting in Cairo

NC1904105593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 19 Apr (MENA)—The seven-member Arab committee on the Libyan-Western crisis began its meetings today on the sidelines of the 99th Arab League Council session. Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid is chairing the meeting.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Official on al-Asad-'Arafat Talks

JN2104111993 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 Apr 93 p 29

[By Hamdan al-Haj]

[Text] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the PLO Information Department, has said the meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad marked a new stage in bilateral relations based on common objectives and interests, proceeding from a realization that a comprehensive solution would serve these interests.

In an interview with AL-DUSTUR, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that the meeting was cordial and focused on various issues, especially the peace process. The Syrian side stressed the need to participate in the peace process despite Israeli obstacles in the way of resuming the negotiations, explaining that discussion of issues considered obstacles to the peace process could be continued at the negotiating table. If the other parties do not respond, then the participating Arab countries could adopt a unified stand either by stopping the process during the ninth round or by not returning to any other round.

'Abd-Rabbuh noted that the Syrians appreciated the motives behind the Palestinian call for postponing the negotiations until all prevailing problems are solved.

'Abd-Rabbuh added that the Palestinian side will study taking part in the next round but based on giving a chance for resolving the more prominent issues such as the deportee issue, the siege imposed by the Israeli occupation authorities on Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza Strip, or the negotiating issues themselves.

'Abd-Rabbuh explained that Saudi Arabia's financial aid, of which the PLO has recently been informed, does not exceed amounts specified earlier within the Jerusalem fund, even though the besieged Palestinian people have real needs due to their suffering from the siege conditions, annihilation, torture, deprivation, and harassment. He added that the Israeli occupation forces are exercising a daily policy of direct starvation of the Palestinian people as part of a premeditated and preplanned policy.

He said that Arab coordination and meetings are still below the required level and are not in harmony with the seriousness of the current stage despite the positive step taken by Saudi Arabia in terms of providing some support for the Palestinian people and their institutions. This is because the issue had now exceeded these limits. He added: It is necessary to achieve Arab solidarity based on the adherence of all Arab parties to national and pan-Arab objectives in order to form a single Arab pressure force that would prompt the United States to adopt a balanced policy in which Arab interests are respected.

As for the current intra-Palestinian meetings in Amman, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that these meetings are discussing Palestinian participation in the ninth round of negotiations in light of demands by the other Arab parties during the cordon states meeting until the issue is discussed with the negotiating Palestinian delegation.

'Abd-Rabbuh said that the Arab cordon states conveyed U.S. pledges to the Palestinian side regarding implementation of a number of steps to facilitate the return of Palestinian deportees from Marj al-Zuhur, increase to more than 101 the first group of returning deportees, and return other Palestinians who were deported in 1967. Moreover, the U.S. pledges also include putting an end to the Israeli authorities harassment of the Palestinian people. 'Abd- Rabbuh added that the Palestinian leadership in Amman will study all this and make an appropriate decision on whether or not the Palestinians will participate in the negotiations and on the level and means of participation.

Based on this, the Arab countries will announce their unified Arab decision in Damascus today following the cordon states ministerial meeting.

'Arafat Rejects Violence in Israel, Territories

AU2004101893 Munich FOCUS in German 19 Apr 93 p 158

[Unattributed report: " 'Arafat No Longer Wants Acts of Violence"]

[Text] In an interview for FOCUS, PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat called for an end to the acts of violence in Israel and the occupied territories. In this way, only the forces that oppose the Middle East peace process will be strengthened. "No side must have an excuse for failing to move directly toward progress in two stages—a strong interim self-government in the occupied territories resulting in a permanent solution."

Israel and the Palestinians must take risks, 'Arafat said.

"All of us must understand that the greatest risk for our peoples is in halting the peace process. Then it would no longer be possible to check the spiral of violence. We would risk chaos and the Balkanization of our whole region. As a way out, free elections to a representative assembly (in the occupied territories) are indispensable."

So far during the negotiations, the PLO's proposals for elections have been in vain.

Delegation Member Criticizes Gaza Murder

TA1904131893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0705 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Report on a telephone interview with Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, by correspondent Razi Barqay on 19 April; from the "It's All Talk" program—al-Agha's remarks recorded in English]

[Text] [Barqay] Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, a member of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks in Washington, was in his home in Gaza this morning awaiting instructions. He was the only one who was prepared to talk about what happened yesterday. Other Palestinians I approached this morning refused under various pretexts. I asked Dr. al-Agha: Is fear of your extreme organizations the reason for this refusal? The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] frightens me more, he replied.

[Al-Agha] Indeed, as regards to what happened to the Israeli lawyer, I think, the Palestinians in principle, we are against killing innocent people, whether they are Palestinians, whether they are Israelis; no problem about the race or nationality. We are against this, especially for what happened yesterday.

[Barqay] We are against violence of any kind and by any side, Dr. al-Agha said, but immediately qualified his statement by saying: The situation is asymmetrical. You are the conquerors, and we are the vanquished.

[Al-Agha] I am afraid of the extremists on the two sides, and I am afraid of the actions which have been done in this area, especially from the Israeli Government and the Israeli Army during the last few weeks in Gaza and before. Indeed, you can't imagine to what extents the people are desperate and the people are disappointed. They are under severe tension; they are under severe suffering.

[Barqay] Dr. al-Agha said the people are very tense and are suffering from the closure, and they have no way out. You, the Israelis, are not giving us any hope whatsoever, he asserted. I asked him: What do you want? We want three things, he replied: the termination of the closure, the return of the deportees, and an improvement in human rights conditions in the territories. That is what will bring us back to Washington. Fine, I said, but what about countergestures on your part, such as an end to terror?

[Al-Agha] If the Israelis take measures, positive measures, I think this will really reflect positively upon the people here. You know, every action has its reaction. If the action is good and positive, it will have a positive reaction. If it is negative, it will have a negative reaction.

[Barqay] Every positive action on your part will prompt a positive reaction on our part, he said, but he would make no promises about terminating Palestinian terror or, as he put it, national resistance activities. I cannot promise such a thing as long as the occupation continues, he said.

Finally, I asked him: And what about Washington? To which he replied: Only after you, the Israelis, meet our three demands.

Delegation Invited to Riyadh, Saudi Aid May Resume

TA1904161893 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 19 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] AL-MANAR has learned from a high-ranking source that a Palestinian delegation will arrive within this week to Saudi Arabia in response to an official invitation from Riyadh. This delegation will include Mahmud 'Abbas, Faysal al-Husayni, and Sa'id Kamal, the Palestinian ambassador in Cairo. The delegation is to meet with Saudi officials and might be received by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

This source added that Arab and Western parties arranged this reconciliation step, which will be followed by the resumption of Saudi financial aid to the PLO. The same source said that the past few days witnessed contacts between the Palestinian side and Arab and international capitals to arrange the delegation's arrival date, membership, and schedule.

Report on Palestinian Delegation's Talks in Moscow

LD1704181093 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] A meeting was held today at the Soviet Foreign Ministry between a Palestinian delegation headed by Brother Abu-Mazin, member of the PLO Executive Committee and chairman of the Palestinian side to the Palestinian-Russian joint political committee, and the Russian delegation headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Kolokov.

During the meeting there was an exchange of views, prior to the resumption of the peace talks, on the scope of a settlement in the Middle East. Brother Abu-Mazin affirmed that the PLO is keen to see the peace negotiations resume and succeed, that peace is the PLO's strategic option, and that the PLO hopes that during the coming hours and days the requirements will be met for these negotiations, and that all obstacles impeding them will be removed.

It is within the framework of the efforts made by the PLO to secure such a climate [for resumption of the talks] and conditions that it has answered Moscow's invitation to have talks given that Russia is one of the two cosponsors of the peace process in the Middle East.

Brother Abu-Mazin added that the possibility of the talks resuming will be achieved by resolving the deportees's issue, including those Palestinians deported since 1967, as well as the lifting of the economic and financial siege imposed on our Palestinian people and their national institutions, and putting an end to the starvation, siege, and isolation and the military repressive campaigns in the Palestinian West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Jerusalem.

Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Kolokov stressed the understanding of Federal Russia for the Palestinian position, and positively assessed the sincere desire of the PLO to take part in the ninth round of the negotiations while stressing the need for lifting the obstacles in their way. He pointed out that Russian diplomacy will be moving toward the concerned parties to discuss and overcome these matters in preparation for the resumption of the negotiations.

The Palestinian side focussed on the importance of the time factor as hours are important in following-up and resolving these issues.

'Arafat, Kim Il-song Exchange Messages

LD1804180793 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Excerpt] The brother president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has sent a message to Kim Il-song, the President of Democratic Korea, which was handed over to him by brother Hani al-Hassan, member of the Central Committee of the Fatah Movement and special envoy of the brother president Abu-'Ammar.

Brother Hani al-Hassan met the Korean president and had a long discussion with him immediately after his recent arrival in Pyongyang. The special envoy of the brother president Abu-'Ammar expressed solidarity with the Korean people with regard to the events facing the Korean peninsula. The two sides condemned the logic of double standards as the United States keeps silent about Israel's possession of 200 atomic bombs and the daily violations of the human rights of the Palestinians.

President Kim Il-song entrusted the special envoy with a message of solidarity and clear support for brother Abu-'Ammar and the Palestinian people. Hed described the brother president Abu-'Ammar as a friend and dear brother, and hoped that the Palestinian people willl triumph in their struggle for self-determination and for establishing their independent state.

Brother Hani al-Hassan had long meetings with the Korean foreign minister and the official in charge of international relations in the Political Bureau of the Korean Workers Party. [passage omitted]

PLO Accuses Abu-Nidal Group of Killing Doctor in Lebanon

JN2104101093 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Apr 93

["Statement" issued by the PLO, Fatah-the Lebanon Region, and the Palestinian Red Crescent Society on the "assassination" of a physician in Lebanon "at the hands of treachery and agentry of the Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] gang;" date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Think not of those who are slain in God's way as dead. Nay, they live, finding their sustenance from their Lord. [Koranic verse]

The hands linked to the Zionist Mossad are resolved to go ahead with their treasonous scheme to liquidate the strugglers of our Palestinian people, thus offering free service to the Israeli enemy. The Abu-Nidal gang, whose dirty hands are smeared with the blood of innocent victims, is resolved to shake people's security, ignoring all values and morals. This hireling group, in this or that country, is determined to shake Palestinian stability in Lebanon. Consider what happened to martyr Abu-Samir [not further identified], as well as others who were assassinated by the hand of agentry, including martyr Yunis 'Awwad. The bullets of these agent hands this time hit the medical institution, represented by the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, when they assassinated Dr. Ibrahim Turkiya who worked at al-Hamshari Hospital, as if they were determined to hit Palestinian minds and intellects and bring about a brain drain.

These hired hands, the gang of the Revolutionary Council, are determined to demonstrate their internal differences which led to the liquidation of many of their cadres, the last of whom was Usamah Sabri Salih.

They insist that their own internal conflicts of power and allegiance be reflected on the outside, at the expense of collective national security.

We in Fatah, out of our responsibility and concern for the security of our people and masses, stress that we will not fall into the trap set for us to strike at the unity of the Lebanese and Palestinian people or to strike at the unity of the Palestinian people, despite all the existing political differences.

We assert to everybody and to all honorable people that we will nurse our wounds, whatever the sacrifices. We will remain faithful to the security of our people and very careful not to give up their right to repatriation, self-determination, and establishing an independent Palestinian state, with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

It is a revolution until victory.

Algeria

Police Use Teargas To Disperse Pro-Berber March

LD2004185793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] The police have used teargas grenades to disperse a march [commemorating the 13th anniversary of the 1980 "Berber Spring" events in Tizi Ouzou] in Bejaia. As in Tizi Ouzou, the traders have also closed their shops here. Some administrations and public companies have also closed their doors. Shops and some schools have also closed in Bouira.

Three 'Terrorists' Killed in Naama

LD2004173093 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Excerpt] On the security front, the National Gendarmerie and the special forces put an end to the activities of two terrorist groups; the first was in Naama and the second in Oum El Bouaghi.

The Naama group consisted of three terrorists who were killed and a quantity of weapons was recovered. As for the Oum El Bouaghi group, its identity became known and an end was put to its activity after it burned a number of citizens' cars and a kiosk belonging to another citizen called Nemchir Touhami. [passage omitted]

Tunisian Foreign Minister Visits Algiers

LD2004184693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Excerpts] The Tunisian foreign minister is in Algiers. During his stay, Mr Habib Ben Yahia will co-chair the tenth session of the big Algerian-Tunisian joint commission. The proceedings will officially start tomorrow morning. [passage omitted]

Mr Habib Ben Yahia was welcomed on his arrival by his counterpart Reda Malek. The Tunisian foreign minister will be received during his stay by the chairman of the Higher State Council and the prime minister.

Exiled Islamic Leader on Armed Struggle

PM1604140693 Paris LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS in French 13 Apr 93 p14

[Interview with Islamic Salvation Front leadership member Shaykh Abdelbaki by Helene Bravin in Paris; date not given]

[Text] Shaykh Abdelbaki, 83-years-old, is currently regarded as the strong man of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. A founder member of the FIS, he belongs to its political body the Majlis Echoura. He has lived in France since 1989. In an exclusive interview with LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS, he explains that the movement dissolved by the Algerian Government has, in a way, turned into an armed group—the Armed Islamic Movement [MIA]—which has been responsible for several attacks on politicians in the past two months. It is obvious that allowance must be made for propaganda in the answers given by the Islamic leader whose state of mind is shared by a number of Algerians at present.

[Bravin] Does the FIS envisage any strategy other than the armed struggle?

[Abdelbaki] For the time being, only the armed struggle prevails. However, it is not impossible that a political body, for instance a government in exile, will be established.

[Bravin] What are the links between the FIS and the MIA?

[Abdelbaki] FIS members lead this armed wing. Since the dissolution of the FIS, everybody without exception has joined the MIA, even the leaders. But the armed movement, despite the establishment of a single armed command, has leadership problems because Chebouti, the leader of the MIA, is very sick and no longer wishes to be in the field.

[Bravin] What are the links between the FIS-MIA, Iran, and Sudan?

[Abdelbaki] The Algerians want to stage their own revolution. They do not need Iran to tell them what to do. With regard to Sudan, do you think that that country, which already has a war in the south, has the means of helping the Algerians? Sudanese Islamic leader al-Turabi simply said it would be desirable for there to be an Islamic republic in Algeria.

[Bravin] What do you think of the current situation within the Algerian Government and the troop movements observed in recent days around strategic buildings?

[Abdelbaki] The government probably fears that the Islamic movement which has staged many military operations against army barracks is capable of attacking these strategic points. However, these troop movements may also be the work of General Lamari, who is trying to oust General Khaled Nezzar. There are disagreements within the army on what methods to use to counter the Islamic movement. Especially in view of the fact that soldiers are starting to desert. The solution of taking a harder line seems to be winning the day. With regard to Prime Minister Belaid Abdessalam, he will stay in power. The military have not found anybody better.

[Bravin] What kind of relations does the FIS-MIA have with other more "moderate" Algerian Islamic movements such as Ennahdha [Renaissance] and Hamas?

[Abdelbaki] These movements are trying to win over the FIS' grass-roots members. But they do not represent anything. And with whom can they have dialogue? With the prisoners of Blida? But the latter do not accept them as intermediaries. For the time being, no political arrangements are possible. And this is because Abassi Madani (the main FIS leader with Ali Belhadj, both in

prison—LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS editor's note) has been overtaken by the MIA. Nobody has any contact with the detainees. Not even Gen Nezzar. Moreover, in a meeting with Nezzar, Ben Bella told him: "You cannot do anything without the FIS. You can talk about tanks, but you will not be able to do anything." The government does not want dialogue, if it had wanted it, it would have opened it from the start. The abortive attack on Gen Nezzar last February was perpetrated by the military. Only they knew his timetable and his route, not the Islamic movement.

[Bravin] However, Rabah Kebir, regarded as the FIS spokesman abroad (he currently lives in Germany—LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS editor's note), has claimed responsibility for the attack on Nezzar.

[Abdelbaki] Rabah Kebir is seeking legitimacy. He has no mandate from the imprisoned FIS leaders to speak for the movement. Moreover, Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj cannot currently express themselves—only the armed wing can do so.

[Bravin] Is the Islamic movement responsible for the attack on Algiers airport last August and the more recent attacks on ministers and other prominent people close to the government?

[Abdelbaki] What would the FIS have gained from attacking civilians? It was the government which did that to discredit the FIS. However, with regard to the attacks on the ministers, the MIA attacked two of them because they were government members. Why should they seek to help a government which is on the wrong track. Other top officials have already received letters warning them.

Ali Kafi Receives National Consultative Council Bureau

LD2004185093 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] This afternoon Ali Kafi, the chairman of the Higher State Council, received at the presidency Mr Abdelhamid Behaddouga, the interim president of the National Consultative Council and the members of the bureau of the Council. The talks fall within the framework of the regular meetings held by the chairman of the Higher State Council and the National Consultative Council.

Egypt

More on Assassination Attempt on Interior Minister

Ministry Issues Statement

NC2004154293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] The Interior Ministry has issued the following statement: At approximately 1130 today, unidentified persons fired shots at private car no. 35501 owned by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif as it was traveling along al-Khalifah al-Ma'mun Street in Heliopolis. As a result of the incident, the information minister was injured in the little finger of his right hand. Police officer Ahmad Shukri Ibrahim, one of the minister's bodyguards, and the driver, Rajab Muhammad 'Ali, also were injured.

Al-Sharif was taken to a hospital for treatment and released. The other two remained at the hospital for treatment.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and Interior Minister Major General Hasan al-Alfi went to the scene of the incident. The interior minister later went to the hospital to inquire about the health of al-Sharif and his two companions.

The security authorities surrounded the area of the incident, and efforts are being made to apprehend the culprits. The state security prosecutor has initiated an investigation into the incident.

Makes Comments

NC2004131993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif was subjected to an assassination attempt on his way from his residence to his office at 1110 today. Shots were fired at him. Major General Rida 'Abd-al-'Aziz, assistant interior minister and Cairo security director, announced that the culprits fired several shots at the car carrying the information minister, his bodyguard, and driver. He said the criminals are being hunted down in the area where the incident occurred and noted that a team has been formed chaired by Assistant Interior Minister Maj. Gen. Hilmi Salih to adopt the necessary measures to apprehend them as soon as possible.

Maj. Gen 'Abd-al-'Aziz added that the information minister, who sustained only minor injuries from glass slivers, was taken to 'Ayn Shams Hospital. The driver and bodyguard were hit but their injuries are slight and their condition is good.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, Interior Minister Maj. Gen. Hasan al-Alfi, and senior Interior Ministry officials left for the scene. The ministry will issue a statement on the incident later.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif made the following statement to our radio correspondent.

[Begin recording] [Al-Sharif] These reckless shots were fired by the misguided group that attacks all Egyptians and commits aggression against this society and nation. It is a group that has gone astray. Egypt is strong. The process of enlightenment and progress will continue and this group will be confronted. There will be nothing lax about the confrontation of those who fire such reckless shots.

[Unidentified correspondent] What would you like to tell the listeners?

[Al-Sharif] I tell them, may God be praised, I am all right. Egypt is all right. Egypt will last forever. It is the strongest. Its banner will remain high. It will never be affected.

[Correspondent] What do you wish to say about terrorism, about this extremist, perverted group?

[Al-Sharif] My view of terrorism is clear. This is not the first time I express it. Through the Egyptian media, I always seek to consolidate sound religious faith and to confront erroneous, perverted thinking. We will continue to expose these terrorists because they are criminals. They have no connection with Islam. [end recording]

Leaves Hospital for Office

NC2004135193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1306 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Apr (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif left 'Ayn Shams Hospital for his office at noon today after undergoing tests following an assassination attempt against him earlier today.

Al-Sharif told journalists who gathered at his office that the Egyptian media will continue to decisively confront terrorism, stressing that there is no truce with terrorism. He said we will carry this out until the last moment of our lives. The best answer to their deed is the fact that they failed and did not achieve their goal. They attacked innocent people, namely my bodyguard and driver.

Investigation Begins

NC2104054093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2109 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Apr (MENA)—The state's higher security prosecution today began to examine the scene of an attempt to assassinate Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif. The prosecution comprehensively examined the site and the car used by the information minister and his two aides this morning.

This evening, the prosecution began hearing the testimonies of eyewitnesses and their accounts of the crime, descriptions, and how the culprits fled. The prosecution will resume its investigations tomorrow morning.

Mubarak Phones

NC2004200893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1614 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today telephoned Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif to inquire about his health following an assassination attempt against him today.

Several shots were fired at al-Sharif as he was leaving his home this morning.

Israeli Environment Minister on Talks

TA2004173393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Environment Minister Yosi Sarid from Cairo by Karmit Gay—live]

[Text] [Gay] Good evening to Environment Minister Yosi Sarid in Egypt.

[Sarid] Good evening.

[Gay] Before we discuss your visit there, what further details can you give us about the assassination attempt on the Egyptian information minister?

[Sarid] I am only familiar with what has already been reported.

[Gay] Do you know Safwat al-Sharif?

[Sarid] No, I do not know him personally, but I met several cabinet ministers here today. They take a very serious view of the radical Islamic violence in Egypt. No less important, I believe that they have shown great understanding for the Israeli Government's positions. They realize that radical Islamic violence is also directed against them, with serious consequences both here and in Israel.

[Gay] Let us talk about your meetings. You delivered a letter from Prime Minister Rabin to President Mubarak. Did you give the letter to Mubarak's adviser 'Usamah al-Baz?

[Sarid] That is correct. I met today with Dr. 'Usamah al-Baz, President Mubarak's chief political adviser, and gave him the letter. I do not read other people's mail, but to the best of my knowledge the letter was a thank you note for having received such a gracious reception in Egypt last week, and for the fact that the Egyptian Government, and especially President Mubarak, have shown such a warm attitude toward the State of Israel, its government, and its positions. I found more understanding and support here for the Israeli Government than among certain circles in Israel. They really showed a surprising degree of understanding.

[Gay] What is the outlook in Egypt regarding the chances of resuming the peace talks next week?

[Sarid] That was the major topic of my discussions here. I met with authoritative officials who are optimistic and confident that after a delay of one week, the negotiations will resume within several days or sometime next week. No one can be completely sure. All of us, including the Egyptians, were disappointed by this week's delay; however, all the signs indicate that the negotiations will resume in several days. The Egyptians implied that Yasir 'Arafat himself also understands that the only option is the negotiating table in Washington.

[Gay] Are there any expectations or talk about additional Israeli concessions to get the talks back on track?

[Sarid] No, and I can assert with utmost certainty that I did not hear any expectations of additional gestures on the part of the Israeli Government. As I see it, the Egyptian Government realizes that all the Israeli Government had to do to get all the incumbent sides to the negotiating table has been done. For my part, I said what I say everywhere: That I do not know why we are talking about gestures; we are not talking about gestures. In my opinion, the Israeli Government did not make any gestures. It made several important moves which were not gestures but expressions of the current government's policy. After giving it serious consideration, the government does the things that ought to be done. These are expressions of a policy, and not gestures.

[Gay] Let us move on to your ministry's affairs. You met with your Egyptian counterpart today. The Egyptians recently complained that Israeli nuclear waste was being dumped in Hamakhtesh Haqatan area. Did this issue come up in your meeting?

[Sarid] As is known, the Egyptians issued several communiques expressing concern over a possible radioactive leak from the nuclear reactor in Dimona, which I categorically denied back home. I discussed the issue with them, they asked me some questions, and I gave them full and satisfactory answers. I can tell you that I absolutely set their mind at ease. They told me today that, as has been reported, they conducted their own tests along the border to see whether there had been any radioactive leak and they also concluded that there was no trace of radioactivity in areas close to the border on their side.

[Gay] Did you talk about Israeli-Egyptian cooperation on environmental affairs?

[Sarid] Definitely. They are interested in cooperation in general, and on environmental affairs in particular because, as is known, the environment does not recognize borders. We experience the same problems, we are after the same solutions, and we may use the same sources of financial assistance. We talked about several fields in particular, such as the danger of a massive oil spill at sea. We cannot tackle such a problem on our own, and neither can they. Only regional cooperation can ensure that ecologically sensitive areas are not contaminated or destroyed, either in the Mediterranean Sea or in the Gulf of Elat and the Gulf of 'Aqaba, which are particularly sensitive areas and precious in all respects to both of us, including in terms of tourists, who will definitely start arriving there in waves.

Secondly, both we and the Egyptians have a great deal to contribute on an issue of great interest to the international community—fighting the spread of deserts to erstwhile cultivated land which is gradually shrinking due to poor treatment. This is a problem bothering many countries in the Third World, South America, Asia, and our region. At this very moment, the director general of the Environment Ministry, Dr. Yisra'el Peleg, and our chief scientist, Professor Yoram Avimelekh, are working on the specific areas of cooperation between us and the Egyptians.

[Gay] Minister Yosi Sarid, thank you very much.

Sudanese Claims on Refusing Oil Tanker Transit Denied

NC1704111893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im, chief of the presidential press office, has denied allegations by Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih that Egypt prevented oil tankers heading for Sudan from passing through the Suez Canal. The Sudanese minister had claimed that this was one of the main reasons for the exacerbation of the fuel crisis in Sudan.

'Abd-al-Mun'im told MENA today that the allegations are groundless. Absolutely no oil tankers have requested transit through the Suez Canal for Sudan, he said.

It should be mentioned that the Sudanese authorities on 11 April decided to stop distributing the weekly gasoline ration for taxis, private cars, and motorbikes in Khartoum after the worsening of the fuel crisis in Sudan, with the price of a gallon of gasoline going up to 1,200-2,000 Sudanese pounds.

Group 'Belonging' to Hizballah Arrested

NC2004210593 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 14 Apr 93 p 1

[Report by Zakariya Fikri]

[Text] Alexandria—The Supreme State Security Prosecutor's Office has revealed that members of a new terrorist organization belonging to Iran's Hizballah movement have been undergoing interrogation since 14 March. Authorities have arrested 255 members of the organization—150 in Alexandria and 105 in al-Buhayrah.

The detainees include Khalid Bakhit, commander of the group's military wing in Alexandria, and 'Ala' Ahmad 'Ali al-Din, commander of the military wing in al-Buhayrah. The prosecutor's office has disclosed that the two commanders recently returned from Afghanistan.

The State Security Prosecutor's Office under Counselor 'Abd-al-Majid Mahmud has accused the suspects of planning to overthrow the regime, undermine the Constitution, carry out acts of terrorism and sabotage, and assassinate some politicians.

The terrorists currently are detained in Abu Za'bal Prison pending transfer of their files to the Military Prosecutor's Office in preparation for their trial in Alexandria and until a place large enough to seat this many suspects is prepared.

Alexandria and al-Buhayrah security authorities succeeded in arresting the Hizballah members after conducting intensive investigations. Security men raided the terrorists' hideouts, located in certain residential areas. Preliminary investigations have revealed that the organization members belong to Iran's Hizballah and that they intend to overthrow the regime with the support of Iran.

Islamic Group Claims Killing of Security Official

NC2004155093 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 14 Apr 93 p 1

[Report by 'Abduh Hasanayn]

[Excerpt] Asyut—An extremist group calling itself the Islamic Group has claimed responsibility for the killing of Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Latif al-Shimi [assistant security director for Asyut Governorate] in Abu Tij, Asyut Governorate. In a statement distributed to news agencies, the group said it killed Maj. Gen. al-Shimi, his guard, and driver in retaliation for the killing of Ahmad Zaki al-Sharif by security forces on 17 March.

The group vowed to avenge what it called its martyrs. Meanwhile, security authorities have continued their search campaigns for the culprits and have arrested 150 suspects. [passage omitted]

New Interior Minister Lifts Curfew in Abu Tij

NC2004145693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1257 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 Apr (MENA)—AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I newspaper reports today that Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has ordered lifting the curfew in Abu Tij, in Upper Egypt's Asyut Governorate. The curfew has been in effect since the assassination of Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Latif al-Shimi, assistant director for security in Asyut.

The newspaper quotes the interior minister as saying that there is no contradiction between the investigations being carried out by the security authorities to apprehend al-Shimi's killers and the citizens' interests, which the curfew has harmed.

'Mediation Delegation,' Government Contacts Explained

NC2004194893 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Apr 93 pp 1, 9

[Report by Ahmad al-Suyufi]

[Text] AL-SHA'B has learned that tremendous efforts have been made to stop the wave of political violence and counterviolence. These efforts began last week following the formation of a delegation of independent Islamic scholars and thinkers. The delegation, consisting of approximately 25 scholars and thinkers, has been called the mediation delegation, or the reform group, or the third faction in view of its efforts to resolve differences between two factions.

The delegation's main aim is to spare Muslim blood by stopping violence and counterviolence and all causes of tension, which has recently swept over society.

The delegation visited [former] Interior Minister Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa at his office last week at the beginning of its moves to end the crisis. The delegation submitted its views on how to end the crisis. In a dialogue which lasted more than four hours, the conferees discussed the issue in depth, including the general political atmosphere, the question of freedoms, the harassment of legal action, detentions, torture, and the need for reform. The delegation's next step is to visit the leaders of the Islamic Group in prisons and to reach a formula by which neither party will appear to have given in to the other. The important thing is to reach a formula that will end violence and bloodshed. Efforts were continuing when this issue went to the press. The delegation has great hopes it will reach a formula that will safeguard Egypt from the whirlpool of violence.

Among the delegation's prominent members are His Eminence Shaykh Mutawalli al-Sha'rawi and His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazzali. The latter has not been able to participate in the current efforts but will participate in future efforts, God willing. The delegation also includes Dr. Muhammad 'Amarah, Dr. Salim al-'Awwa, Dr. 'Abd-al- Sabur Shahin, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Latif Mushtahri, Fahmi Huwaydi, Ahmad Farraj, Dr. Ahmad Shalabi, Dr. 'Abd-al-Hayy al-Farmawi, and Dr. Sayyid Rizq al-Tawil, and Dr. Wajih al-Sa'dawi.

AL-SHA'B also has learned that Major General 'Abd-al-Ra'uf Salih, director of the Prisons Authority, received 'Abbud al-Zumur, one of the leaders of al-Jihad, who was sentenced to 40 years in prison in connection with the assassination of President Anwar al-Sadat and an attempt to overthrow the regime. This meeting, which was held at the Prisons Authority three months ago, took place as part of efforts to resolve the crisis. The dialogue revolved around ending the acts of violence. 'Abbud al-Zumur demanded the release of the detainees, ending torture, and stopping random assassinations. He demanded guarantees for this. In return, al-Jihad promised to end all acts of violence.

AL-SHA'B also has learned that a meeting took place between the interior minister and 'Abbud al-Zumur in Ramadan [March]. A high- level official reportedly attended this meeting. The same topics were discussed during the meeting. Al-Zumur reportedly rejected an offer to release him in return for an end to the acts of violence. He insisted that the entire issue must be solved.

Security Investigations Identify 9 'Terrorist' Elements

NC2104065093 Cairo MENA in English 2039 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 20 April (MENA)—Security agencies investigations have resulted in pinpointing a number of dangerous terrorist elements, wanted for planning and

implementing a number of terrorist operations, aimed at undermining security and stability in Egypt and assassinating a number of public figures and officials.

The investigations identified nine persons as terrorist and an official security source appealed to citizens for cooperation with the police agencies, where any information contributing to arresting the terrorists may be reported through telephone numbers, given by the source or through direct reporting to the nearest police station.

'Terrorist' Jumps to Death From Aswan Security Directorate

NC2004200693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1606 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Aswan, 20 Apr (MENA)—A terrorist met his death today when he jumped from a window of the Criminal Investigation Department, situated on the fifth floor of the Aswan Security Directorate.

The terrorist, 'Isa Tahir Sulayman, a student at the Social Services Institute in Aswan, was arrested yesterday along with four other persons for carrying weapons and explosives.

Chief Prosecutor Mustafa 'Abd-al-Fattah visited the scene of the incident. Coroner Kamal 'Abd-al-Baqi conducted an autopsy on Sulayman and discovered fractures in the terrorist's skull caused by his fall.

The prosecutor is continuing his investigation of the other four suspects.

Morocco

Sudan's Abu-Salih Comments on Ties With Egypt

NC1604151393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Rabat, 16 Apr (MENA)—Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Abu-Salih, who is currently visiting Rabat, has stated that Morocco could play an important role and act as a mediator between Egypt and Sudan over their differences.

In a statement to a MENA correspondent here, the Sudanese minister noted that the message he had conveyed to the Moroccan monarch from Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir included support for the monarch's initiative to mend the Arab rift and achieve Arab solidarity. In the message, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir briefed the king on the situation in Sudan and discussed ways to promote bilateral cooperation between the two countries, he added. Morocco will chair the coming session of the Arab League Council, which will open next week.

Dr. Abu-Salih added that he will meet with Egyptian officials and Arab foreign ministers on the sideline of the Arab League Council meeting, which will be held in Cairo. He added that he believes the meeting will provide an opportunity to clear the Arab atmosphere, straighten things out, eliminate all fears and suspicions, and promote relations between Sudan and the Arab states. He noted that a sincere, honest, and objective dialogue is needed.

On the situation in southern Sudan, the Sudanese foreign minister said that talks with [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement leader] John Garang will begin in the Nigerian capital of Abuja on 26 April and that conditions are very favorable for initiating a dialogue and a discussion on the issue of the transitional period.

Responding to threats of international foreign intervention in southern Sudan, he stressed that his country will not allow any intervention in southern Sudan and will fight to preserve the unity of Sudanese soil. He added: The Arab nation must be alert to what is taking place in southern Sudan and what is being concocted against Sudan.

On the fuel crisis in Sudan, the Sudanese minister noted that it is the result of a malfunction in an oil refinery as well as a dispute over pricing, particularly since the government has authorized the private sector to import oil.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Leaves on Visit to Nigeria 20 Apr

JN2004124793 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1010 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Apr (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, left for Abuja this morning on a one-day official visit to Nigeria. During the visit, his excellency will meet with Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida for talks on bilateral relations and ways to promote them, as well as the peace efforts that are under way under the auspices of President Babangida and the steps so far made since the second round of Abuja talks.

Dr. 'Ali al-Haj Muhammad, minister of planning and investment and the government's official spokesman for the peace negotiations, is accompanying Gen. al-Bashir on this visit.

Comments Upon Return

EA2004210093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, returned to Khartoum today from Abuja after a one-day visit. His excellency made the following statement to our reporter at Khartoum airport:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Unidentified Reporter] In the context of this deluge of efforts you are making for peace, a statement from the General Command [of the Armed Forces] a short while ago said the rebels had carried out several violations of the cease-fire

and blame the Sudanese Government. What is the effect of these violations on the peace march?

[Al-Bashir] In reality, naturally, we in the first [word indistinct] we declared a cease-fire. We confirmed that all the administrative moves of the Armed Forces would continue as planned. They [the rebels] tried to make the world believe that these moves were violations of the cease-fire. We confirm that for our part we did not violate the cease-fire at all and that their allegations are false. We do not deny there are moves by the Armed Forces. They are programmed. They are administrative, and these administrative moves will continue. But the violations that occurred on their part were some skirmishes against these administrative moves. What they are doing now to the other factions and the attempt to liquidate the other factions is an impediment to the relief operations. All these acts come within the framework of violations of the cease-fire. We, for our part, drew attention to these violations. We hope the rebels observe the cease-fire and stop these violations so that the negotiations can take place in an atmosphere set for achieving peace, God willing. [passage omitted]

Al-Bashir Receives Chadian Army Commander

AB2004104293 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and of the Council of Ministers, met Mohamed Chirfsu, commander in chief of the Chadian Armed Forces and his delegation at his office on 19 April. The chief of general staff, Major General Hassan 'Abd al-Rahman 'Ali also attended the meeting.

Bilateral relations with particular reference to military cooperation were discussed during the meeting. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir stressed the eternal relations between Sudan and Chad, stressing the importance of strengthening and developing them in the interests of the two peoples.

Southern Groups, Opposition Said To Reach Accord

AB1904181693 Paris AFP in English 1638 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Nairobi, April 19 (AFP)—South Sudanese rebels and banned opposition political parties have reached an accord on two key issues for a new interim constitution for Sudan at weekend talks here, they stated Monday.

The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the Sudan Democratic Alliance (SDA), grouping several northern parties, told journalists here that they had agreed to incorporate international and regional human rights instruments and covenants as an integral part of a new constitution for Sudan.

The two parties also agreed that a new Sudanese constitution shall guarantee full equality of citizens on the basis of citizenship, respect for religious beliefs and traditions and without discrimination on grounds of religion, race, gender or culture.

"Any laws contrary thereto shall be considered null and void and unconstitutional", they said in a joint communique read to the press on Monday.

John Garang's mainstream faction of the SPLA is preparing for negotiations with the military junta in Khartoum, which are set to be held in Abuja under Nigerian auspices on April 26.

The SPLA and the opposition said their final Nairobi accord brought a full consensus over articles of the interim constitution worked out at previous meetings in Addis Ababa in 1991 and London in 1992, with a view to decisively resolving the remaining issues for democratic, secular Sudan.

Two previous meetings on the issue had resolved that strict Islamic shari'ah law, the main reason for the bloody civil war between the SPLA and the government in Khartoum, "be abolished", the communique pointed out.

The SPLA and the SDA maintained that they were for the unity of Sudan, and that if that cannot be achieved, they would accept "a qualified confederation between the north and south, but within one Sudan".

Three breakaway SPLA factions led by Riak Machar, William Nyuon Bany and Kerubino Kwanyin Bol, now grouped under the banner of SPLA United, were not invited to the Nairobi talks because, they said, "the group was calling for self-determination for the south and not unity of Sudan".

Signing the communique with Garang's SPLA were leading officials of the Ummah Party of deposed Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi and the Democratic Unionist Party, Sudan Communist Party, Union of Sudan African Parties, Legitimate Command and independent national figures.

The document is to presented to the Nigerian government and is expected to feature prominently during the negotiations between Garang's SPLA and the Khartoum regime of General 'Umar Hassan al- Bashir.

Sources at the talks said the SDA had originally come to Nairobi to persuade the SPLA not to attend the Abuja talks because, it maintained, the "autocratic Muslim fundamentalist" regime in Khartoum did not represent the wishes of the people.

However, the sources said, the SDA was persuaded that the SPLA "had legitimate reasons to do so and this has been accepted".

According to a Sudanese embassy source, a government delegation led by Sudanese minister 'Ali al-Haj Muhammad, was also in the Kenyan capital for talks with President Daniel arap Moi on the forthcoming Abuja talks.

The SPLA rebels have been battling government forces since 1983 for a secular Sudan and to end domination of the Christian and animist south by the Muslim, Arabised north.

The mainstream SPLA also said Monday that it was extending for another month a unilateral ceasefire it declared in March to facilitate the peace talks in Nigeria next week.

A statement from Colonel Garang issued in Nairobi said the truce "shall be enforced for the whole period taken to complete the Abuja II peace talks".

The SPLA appealed to the international community to become "fully engaged in the search for peace in the Sudan and to monitor Sudan Army's frequent violation of the ceasefire".

The movement alleged that government troops were currently fighting rebel forces on the road linking the southern towns of Kapoeta and Torit and were poised to launch an offensive against the SPLA on the Juba-Torit front.

Meanwhile, the rebels announced that Garang had issued an order for the release of three unidentified prisoners of war, one of them a doctor, the SPLA said in another statement.

The decision to free the three was reached after Garang met Faruq Abu Eissa, Secretary General of the Arab Lawyers Union, according to the statement.

Garang Outlines Proposals

PM2004153493 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 18 Apr 93 pp 1, 4

[Report by Mu'awiyah Yasin: "Sudanese Opposition Holds Conference To Settle Religion and State Issue"]

[Excerpt] London—Leaders of the "Democratic National Grouping"—Sudanese opposition—held a meeting in Nairobi yesterday. Colonel John Garang, leader of the "Torit wing" of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA], participated in its inauguration. He also confirmed his participation in the upcoming Sudanese peace talks. He said that his proposals with regard to the talks call for the establishment of two confederal states in Sudan. He also warned that the continuation of the existence of one state in the country "would mean the continuation of Arabization, Islamization, and hegemony in the south—a recipe for the endless continuation of the war." He promised the northern opposition that he would convey his proposals to the Khartoum delegation.

Garang, whose forces have been fighting against Khartoum since 1983, said that he will participate personally in the peace talks among Sudanese groups under Nigeria's sponsorship on 26 April. He said that he is going to Abuja to demand acceptance of his proposal regarding the establishment of a confederal system, which will result in the establishment of two states in north and south Sudan. He pointed out that the confederation he is calling for is "democratic and secular."

He emphasized that he has handed the plan he is proposing to Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida, who is sponsoring the peace talks. He urged leaders of the opposition grouping to submit their proposals to him in order to add them to the proposals he intends to submit to the Sudanese Government's delegation to the Abuja talks. He said in his speech that his wing wants "confederal areas in a unified, democratic, and secular Sudan that respects human rights and is not based on religion or race." He pointed out that the unity he is seeking "is not a unity under which the north dominates the south." He attributed the civilian unrest which has dominated the south for 27 years since the country's independence 37 years ago to this domination.

He said that he will go to Abuja with an "open mind," and that a confederation would not necessarily lead to separating the south, "as several aspects can remain under a central system until joint matters between the two sides are deepened."

Garang, who is expected to leave Nairobi today for his areas of influence in southern Sudan, stressed that the Abuja talks will be confined to the "Torit wing" led by him and a delegation representing the government. [passage omitted]

Abu-Salih on Maghreb, Egypt, Arab Relations

PM2004111193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Apr 93 pp 1, 4

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Husayn Sulayman by Munsif al-Sulaymi in Rabat "yesterday"]

[Text] Sudanese Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih has expressed his country's wish to improve its relations with the Arab Maghreb states, especially Tunisia and Algeria, and to surmount current differences and problems with them.

In an interview which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT conducted with him in Rabat yesterday following his meeting with King Hassan II of Morocco, in which he handed a message from Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir concerning the efforts being made by Morocco to clear the air and restore Arab solidarity, Dr. Abu-Salih said in reply to a question about the existence of Moroccan mediation between Sudan and both Tunisia and Algeria: "Sudan supports the Moroccan monarch in his efforts to clear the air and the Arab scene, and certainly the matter includes both the Arab east and the Arab Maghreb."

On the Arab Maghreb states' accusation that Sudan is sheltering and training extremist elements, the Sudanese foreign minister revealed "the existence of a few Algerian and Tunisian elements—who can be counted on the fingers of one hand—who sought refuge in Sudan and were accepted from a purely Islamic angle. But Sudan

did not allow them to establish an organization or carry out hostile action, either through writing things or any other means." He wondered: "How can a few weak individuals who are not allowed to carry out any action be a source for undermining regimes?" He pointed out that the Sudanese Government establishes relations with governments only.

Dr. Abu-Salih said that "there are popular defense camps for the Sudanese only, not for foreigners. Their aim is to support the Army, which is fighting in southern Sudan." He added that "the existence of popular defense camps in Sudan was misunderstood—which led to us being accused of training elements to undermine regimes in the region."

He said that Sudanese officials had held talks and made contacts with the Tunisian and Algerian capitals to eliminate these problems. It was proposed to them that they send observers to ascertain that Sudan does not interfere in their affairs or harm or undermine any country's sovereignty and security. He expressed "Khartoum's wish to restore relations with Tunisia and Algeria to their normal status." He said that "what is required in this regard is further dialogue to eliminate the problems and their causes."

Dr. Abu-Salih described Sudanese-Egyptian relations as "passing through an abnormal phase which pleases no Egyptian or Sudanese. And relations became strained for a while and then worsened after the occupation of the Hala'ib triangle." He added that "the problem between the two countries occurred not because of the importance or otherwise of Hala'ib, but because Sudan rejects occupation. And what is required is to resolve problems peacefully and to leave the matter to the technical committee, provided that there is no military presence. And we call for matters to be restored to their previous status before October 1992."

He said that "the media are contributing to the strain in Egyptian-Sudanese relations. Removing the military presence and resorting to a peaceful solution would lead to an understanding between the countries on the Hala'ib problem," which he described as a phenomenon which occurred before in 1958.

He called for "Egyptian-Sudanese relations to be tackled and discussed openly and seriously in order to find the necessary solutions for the problem within the framework of good-neighborliness, cooperation, and joint history."

The Sudanese foreign minister told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that he will head his country's delegation to the Arab foreign ministers council meetings in Cairo. He pointed out that he recently held a meeting with the Arab states' ambassadors in Khartoum and informed them that he would participate in the Cairo meeting immediately after his visit to Morocco.

Dr. Abu-Salih yesterday left Rabat for Cairo to head his country's delegation to the Arab foreign ministers council meetings.

On the Sudanese regime's relations with fundamentalist movements, Dr. Abu-Salih said that "there is a difference between the Islamic Shari'ah's application announced in Sudan on 1 January 1991 and relations with Islamic movements." He pointed out that his country "establishes relations with governments, not movements."

He pointed out that the "application of the Shari'ah is limited to the areas which have a Muslim majority, and that by this Sudan is seeking to become an example to be followed alongside the various models and systems."

On domestic conditions in Sudan, Dr. Abu-Salih said that "Sudan is in the process of completing building a political system based on ideological and framework pluralism under national unity" in order to overcome the traditional struggle among conservative, modern, and young forces.

He said that "the new political system is currently being built at grass roots level by electing local councils representing the masses and social and unionist sectors." He expected it to be completed at central level in 1995, "as a national assembly will be formed. It will represent three groups on a balanced basis: the masses by election, and the Army, judiciary, administration officials, and diplomats by appointment. And the head of state is likely to be elected in the same year (1995)."

He added that "the new political system merges political leaderships but does not recognize them as parties, and they will not be a source of hegemony for the elite. Sudan cannot be ruled through dictatorship or hegemony. What is required is to establish a balance between freedom and chaos."

On his assessment of economic conditions in Sudan Dr. Abu-Salih said that national product rose by 11 percent last year and will rise by 15 percent this year. And that the focus is now on agriculture and self-reliance. However, he pointed to the social difficulties resulting from the move to liberalize the economy.

Garang Forces Said Violating Cease-Fire

EA2104114193 Khartoum SUNA in English 0950 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Apr (SUNA)—The outlaw Garang's forces have violated the recently-declared ceasefire in contradiction with his group's allegations on violations by the government, Armed Forces General Command communique said. It said violations by Garang's forces were aiming at disturbing the convention of peace negotiations scheduled in Abuja, Nigeria on 26th April, the communique, issued here Tuesday [20 April] added.

Being abiding by ceasefire, the Armed Forces issued a statement last March confirming that its administrational movement in the south would not be halted and any attack on it would be considered a violation to

ceasefire, the communique reads. The statement then listed six ceasefire violation operations by the rebels forces against such Armed Forces movement occurred in various places in the south and on different dates. [sentence as received]

The statement said Garang has exploited the Armed Forces commitment to ceasefire and conducted liquidation operations against his foes within other factions of the rebellion movement. These operations by Garang's forces were still going on in areas of southern Upper Nile, a matter considered a clear violation to ceasefire, a threat to the peace efforts and innocent citizens and a halt to the United Nations humanitarian relief operations there, the Armed Forces Command said in its statement.

"The Armed Forces will adhere to ceasefire to make them miss the chance until the coming round of negotiations concluded", the communique said. [sentence as received]

Government, SPLA Forces Reportedly Clash

AB2004115993 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 19 Apr 93

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Excerpts] The cease-fire between John Garang's Torit faction of the SPLA [Sudanese People Liberation Army] and Sudanese Government forces appears to have broken down quite badly. Yesterday on this program we spoke to a journalist who used to be in the south. He told us that the Sudanese Army had attacked the SPLA- held town of Chukudum, and were now heading for new targets. Well, today the Torit faction denied that there had been a clash at Chukudum, but said there was fighting going on elsewhere. On the line to Nairobi Raggi Omar asked Torit faction spokesman Elijah Malock what the position was:

[Begin recording] [Malock] What has happened is this: Let me put the records straight. The government is moving between Kapoeta and Torit. Kapoeta is to the Sudan-Kenya borders, and you know where Torit is. [sentence as heard] Torit is a town 80 km away from Juba. Now, what is happening—and this is what is important—what is happening is that the Sudanese are fighting our forces along the road between Kapoeta and Torit. [passage omitted]

So, if you are talking of the breakage of the cease-fire by the Sudan Government, yes, but not fighting in Chukudum. Nobody has gone to Chukudum. We are in full control in Chukudum. But we are fighting with Sudan Government along the Kapoeta-Torit road.

[Omar] And what reports have you got of your forces from that fighting between you and the government between Kapoeta and Torit?

[Malock] There is a very heavy fighting and people are engaged in the war, so there is no definite list of casualties and deaths.

[Omar] Is the fighting still going on?

[Malock] It is going on as I am speaking to you now.

[Omar] Now, you said that the Sudanese Government forces are trying to make their way toward (Kiyala). Is that a town that you hold at the moment?

[Malock] Yes, this is a town midway between Torit and Kapoeta, and we hold it as of now.

[Omar] And so this must leave the cease-fire in tatters?

[Malock] Well, we have just issued this morning another.... [Malock changes thought] The cease-fire that was in existence finished on the 18th of April, that was yesterday but after consultation with the general field staff and Command Council, which is the highest body of the SPLA, Colonel Dr. John, the chairman and commander in chief of the SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] and SPLA has instructed us to issue a new order for a cease-fire beginning on the 18th, yesterday, to the 18th of May so that Abuja talks can continue despite the breakage of the cease-fire by the Sudanese Armed Forces between Torit and Kapoeta. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Arrests 'Escalation' Against Ummah Party

PM2004153693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Apr 93 pp1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Sudanese Security Authorities Arrest Ahmad al-Mahdi"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Sudanese security forces yesterday morning arrested Ahmad al-Mahdi, uncle of al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, former prime minister and leader of the Sudanese Ummah Party and al-Ansar [sect].

Informed Sudanese sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the arrest of Ahmad al-Mahdi came one day after the arrest of his son Muhammad who was badly beaten up by security men.

The sources added: The security men in the capital put pressure on Muhammad al-Mahdi to make a confession about the distribution of antigovernment leaflets and to testify against al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, but he refused despite the beating.

Ummah Party sources described the arrest of Ahmad al-Mahdi and his son as an escalation by the government against the Ummah Party and al-Ansar. They warned against what they called that provocative policy.

Meanwhile, a traveler arriving from Khartoum in the past two days has stated that the situation in the Sudanese capital Khartoum is very tense.

He said that separate demonstrations were staged in several quarters of the capital and that tense atmosphere might lead to a popular explosion.

Senior Commanders Said Murdered on Garang's Orders

AB2004215393 Paris AFP in English 1730 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Nairobi, April 20 (AFP)—Two senior rebel commanders of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) have been murdered in cold blood in southern Sudan on orders of SPLA leader John Garang, a rebel faction claimed here Tuesday.

A statement from the recently formed SPLA United bringing together factions of former SPLA commanders Riak Machar, Kerubino Kwanyin Bol and William Nyuon Bany, claimed that Commander Oyal Deng Ajak, SPLA's chief of combat operations and security, was murdered in cold blood last week by his own colleagues on orders of John Garang.

Also murdered with him was Commander Giir Chuong, chief of SPLA's combat communications (signals).

Oyal Deng is famous for his command of most of the battles that culminated in the capture by the SPLA of most of the towns in Eastern and Western Equatoria from the government.

According to the statement, Oyal Deng and Giir Chuong had been accused by Garang of plotting against him, after suspecting them of sympathising with factions opposed to the SPLA leader before the recent formation of the SPLA United faction.

After their murder Garang allegedly concocted a story saying that the two commanders had defected to "government enemy forces", the statement said.

Another senior SPLA leader, popularly known as "uncle" Joseph Oduho, was shot and killed recently during heavy fighting between Garang's mainstream SPLA faction and other factional forces near the southern Sudanese town of Kongor.

Saddam al-Faw Anniversary Address; Part II

JN2104085893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Apr (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has shed light on many aspects and secrets of the preparations made to liberate al-Faw from Iranian control.

His excellency recollected, along with the commanders and officers who took part in the liberation of al-Faw, the discussions he had with the commanders of the 3d and 7th Corps after the Iranian occupation of Halabjah in northeastern Iraq. His excellency said: I told them why al-Faw should be liberated at that time and during the circumstances that prevailed then. I told them that the enemy holds on to al-Faw for psychological reasons, giving evidence that the enemy had stationed its best units over there and could not move these units or allow them to conduct maneuvers, since al-Faw was a precious target for it.

The president supported his argument by citing a tactical development which took place after the Iranian occupation of Halabjah, noting that the enemy was unable to maneuver after it set aside other units for Halabjah, which was considered another important site.

President Saddam Husayn added: It was believed that the course of the battle was dependent on the fate of the Iranian enemy on the land of al-Faw. I told the commanders of the two corps that we must try to liberate al-Faw, and that its liberation will herald the end of the war and the enemy's collapse on other fronts.

Praising the role of the Air Force in the preparation of a thorough plan for victory, his excellency added: The Air Force took pictures of enemy positions, and we knew the exact location of every piece of artillery and machine.

The president explained that the role of the Air Force made it possible to tell exactly how many shells would be fired to silence the enemy artillery, since it was very important to silence the artillery to minimize losses, considering that the land was open outside the defense positions.

The president spoke about the importance of the timing of the offensive and how they were deliberating whether zero hour should be in daytime or nighttime. He added: We thought that the offensive should be carried out at an hour which gives us enough time to mobilize our forces at night and then to see our enemy face to face in daylight.

Staff Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Duri, then director of Military Intelligence, said it was agreed that the offensive should start after the morning alert of Iranian units ends and the units go to bed.

Al-Duri spoke about the contribution of the Republican Guard to the tactical operations that suit the nature of the territory, noting that the Republican Guard conducted many drills to study the nature of the terrain and devised some makeshift equipment to facilitate the infantry's advance, including the use of boots with wide soles so as not to stick in the mud, as well as other innovations to facilitate the movement of vehicles.

Commenting on the landing of Iraqi forces on Bubiyan Island as reported by one of the commanders, President Saddam Husayn said:

Your brothers in Kuwait might think that you are talking about something happening now and might be afraid of this story, since they now live in peace. But this is a bygone story about the liberation of al-Faw.

Gen. Nizar 'Abd-al-Karim al-Khazraji also spoke about the role of the Navy in the execution of the plan to liberate al-Faw, including amphibian support. He said: We carried out exercises using boats, as well as other activities, including exercises to land on Bubiyan.

The president said: The purpose of the landing operation was to know whether we can land our units on Bubiyan and harass and strike the enemy on the left flank. This is why we chose Bubiyan Island; it was different from our purpose on 2 August 1990.

The president and the unit commanders who took part in liberating al-Faw then spoke about the top secrecy observed with regard to preparations and logistics of the liberation plan. The president said: Top secrecy was observed in the last 14 days, and even the commanders attending knew only what their duties required them to do minute by minute.

His excellency added: The order to observe top secrecy also covered the Armed Forces General Headquarters, so that its members could work out the details minute by minute. We instructed very few specialist technicians exclusively to take care of the final technical touches of the plan.

The president disclosed that the team was headed by the late Staff Gen. Defense Minister 'Adnan Khayrallah, who was in charge of an inner General Headquarter under the president's direct supervision.

One of the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command members at the time recalls His Excellency President Saddam Husayn's eagerness to keep secret the details of the plan and the timing of the offensive. He said that at one of the meetings, His Excellency President Saddam Husayn jotted the proposed date on a piece of paper and passed it around to those attending without speaking one word, after which he tore it up. Commenting on this, his excellency said: I did this because I was afraid of bugging devices.

The dialogue between leader Saddam Husayn and his soldiers dealt with some tactical applications that were carried out within the plan for the liberation of al-Faw. Staff General Iyad Futayyih al- Rawi, commander of the Republican Guard at the time, said that his excellency the president ordered the implementation of the second chapter of the plan on the same day of the success of the

first chapter of the plan. Thus, the Iraqi forces continued with their thrust instead of waiting until the next day.

His excellency explained this by saying: This took place for the first time. When we studied the progress of the battles, we deemed it necessary not to give the Iranians time to reorganize their forces on their defense lines. I ordered the units from the second chapter of the plan to immediately step in after the units from the first chapter had completed their tasks so as not to give the enemy the chance to reorganize its forces.

President Saddam Husayn described this operation as a complex operation which cannot be applied in all cases. The president said: We adopted this method in all the battles that followed starting with the Ramadan Mubarak battles to liberate al-Faw, the four Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah [we relied on God] battles, and ending with Muhammad Rasul Allah battles in the north.

Lt. Gen. Sabir 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Duri, director of military intelligence at the time, spoke about how intelligence organs had helped the Iranians to occupy al-Faw and how the Iraqi intelligence organs helped in expelling them from it.

Al-Duri affirmed that the Iranian occupation of al-Faw took place in accordance with an international conspiracy against Iraq in which several countries, led by America, took part through the misleading information that they used to leak through various sources. Thus, they made the Iraqi intelligence focus its attention on the Maysan sector instead of al-Faw and this allowed the Iranians to exploit the element of surprise in al-Faw.

Al-Duri also said that the Iranians occupied al-Faw to make it a springboard from which they would proceed to the occupation of al- Basrah and thus close Iraq's only outlet to the Arabian Gulf.

The former director of military intelligence discussed the details of the plan prepared by the Iraqi organs to trick and mislead the Iranians. He said much of the plan was based on ideas submitted by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. The battle began, and the units from the Republican Guard and the 7th Corps had reached half way to their targets with the Iranians still not believing that we were proceeding to liberate al-Faw.

He also explained the details of the plan of deception and said that one of these details consisted of the appearance of late Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, former defense minister, with other members of the Armed Forces General Command in the northern region, and making believe that units there had been damaged.

He revealed that Iraqi intelligence, at the instructions of President Saddam Husayn, had leaked information that the Iranians intended to attack al-Basrah from the area of al-Faw. This made the Iranians believe that every unit that was sent to al-Basrah was either damaged and was being returned from the north, or brought in to reinforce al-Faw sector against the Iranian attack.

He said that the Iranians had taken the bait prepared by the Iraqi military intelligence and stepped up their activities opposite the 7th sector to make the Iraqis believe that they really wanted to occupy al-Basrah.

He added that in addition to timing the offensive to coincide with the end of the morning ultimatum while the Iranian soldiers were still asleep, the president ordered that the daily activities by the Iranian units in al-Faw be monitored to see whether they had sensed Iraqi intentions.

The Iranians fought the Iraqi forces for 42 days, during which they sustained 120,000 casualties, and the Republican Guard and the 7th Corps unit regained al-Faw in 35 hours.

Jalal Talabani Meets U.S. General; To Leave for U.S.

JN1804132493 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 18, INA—An Iraq newspaper today reported a meeting between American General James Record in charge of the Western alliance coordination office in north Iraq and Jalal Talabani who intends to go to Washington next week.

AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper today quoted informed sources in north Iraq as saying that Record and Talabani discussed the differences among the so-called opposition parties.

It added that the American general visited Dahuk and met representatives of those parties in an attempt to form a delegation that would accompany Talabani in his visit to Washington.

The agent Talabani had earlier stated that the visit would be dedicated to urge Clinton administration support the hireling cliques naming themselves as the opposition conference.

Talabani had also told a foreign correspondent in Anakara that he looks forward to boost relations between the opposition parties and the United States in the shade of Clinton administration.

The Clinton administration was reported to have reduced allocations set by George Bush to support the so-called Iraqi opposition.

Al-Muthanna Governorate Chiefs Pledge Loyalty

JN1904165793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Before leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect and save him, 281 tribal chiefs and dignitaries from al-Muthanna Governorate have taken the pledge of loyalty to great Iraq and their beloved leader Saddam Husayn. They pledged that the Iraqis will forge ahead in their triumphant march to resist tyranny;

protect the homeland's soil, sovereignty, unity; and defend the glorious 17-30 July Revolution and its great achievements.

During the leader's meeting with the people, the leader president, may God protect him, made a valuable address to his citizens, who were chanting, singing folk songs, and raising the arms of virtue and the banners of victory.

The ceremony was attended by Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, chief of the Presidential Office.

Science, Work Weapons Against 'Aggressors'

JN2004171493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Apr (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and vice president, has said that Iraq's battle with its enemies is long and multifaceted. He added: Science and work are the weapons with which Iraq faces the aggressors. The vice president said at the inauguration of the fifth scientific conference of Iraqi universities: All methods of deception and aggression created by the enemies could not help them achieve their ambitions and evil intentions. Science will remain Iraq's weapons in its counter-attack against the enemies.

Ramadan noted that the Iraqi people have an intellectual, scientific, and cultural asset that places them among the first nations that utilize vigorous creativity to deal with life and its scientific facts.

During this conference, 252 research papers will be presented. These studies will deal with health, medicine, pharmaceuticals, engineering, applied sciences, physics, chemistry, mathematics, biology, and the humanities.

Officials Receive Algerian Minister

JN1504171093 Baghdad INA in English 1630 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad Apr. 15. INA—Vice President Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan today received here visiting Algerian minister of mujahidin [War Veterans] Brahim Chibout and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, Mr. Ramadan said that boosting relations between Iraq and Algeria would strengthen the Arab nation and added that enemies of the Arabs work for eliminating the Arab national struggle but the Mother of Battles had contributed to expanding ties and coordination among sons of the Arab nation.

The Algerian minister said enemies of the Arabs had failed to realize their evil objectives and he highly appreciated Iraq's counter offensive to the thirty states aggression through the reconstruction drive.

The visiting Algerian minister was also received today by the defence minister General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid who paid tribute to the position of support and solidarity of the Algerian people toward Iraq.

The defence minister called for stepping up Arab struggle and solidarity pointing out that the U.S.-led thirty states aggression on Iraq was after disintegrating the Arab nation and maintaining the presence of the Zionist entity.

Turkomans To Be Given Seat in Kurdish Cabinet

NC1604133393 Ankara TURKISH DAILY NEWS in English 12 Apr 93 pp 1, 11

[Text] Ankara—Iraqi Kurds, who on Monday [19 April] will name the members of their new cabinet, are offering one seat to the Turkomans, Iraq's second largest minority, Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) leader Jalal Talabani said.

Talabani, before leaving Turkey for Syria on Saturday, told the TURKISH DAILY NEWS that the new cabinet headed by 'Abdallah Rasul (nom de guerre Kosrat) would reserve one portfolio for the Turkomans.

He said the Turkoman parties had agreed in principle to take the seat but had asked time to name their nominee. "They want to name him after the Turkoman convention on April 17," Talabani said.

According to senior Kurdish sources, the Kurds have offered either the Justice or Public Works ministry to the Turkomans. The first seat is important as it has remained vacant since the previous government because of dispute with Islamic Kurdish parties who attempted to appoint a Mullah to this position. The second could be vital for the reconstruction of Iraqi Kurdistan and if the seat is taken by a Turkoman it could open the way for further Turkish technical assistance and know how into the region.

The new Kurdish cabinet is to be headed by Kosrat, who is a senior member of the PUK polit-bureau and a well-known military commander who was involved in last October's offensive in the Karkuk region. This incident forced militants of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) to surrender to the Iraqi Kurds. Members of the new cabinet will have to be approved by the 105-seat Kurdish parliament, in which the PUK and Mas'ud Barzani's Kurdistan Democrat Party (KDP) equally share 100 seats and the remaining minorities and groups hold five.

Defense Minister Receives Russian Parliament Deputy

JN1604192193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1647 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Apr (INA)—Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Revolution Command Council member and defense minister, has received General Anatoliy Boskovich Kolotov, a deputy in the Russian Parliament, who is currently visiting the country at the invitation of the National Assembly.

The defense minister voiced his appreciation for the friendly Russian people's support for our right to defend ourselves against injustice and aggression. Al-Majid also noted the Russian people's condemnation of the 30-state aggression against Iraq, which was spearheaded by the United States that grudges other nations aspiring to advance—including Iraq—the right to freedom.

Al-Majid said the aggressor nations are seeking to make of Iraq a vassal, and to that end they want to weaken it—something Iraq has resolutely rejected and made generous sacrifices to ward off.

He called on striving nations, including the Russians, to strike an independent line, not submissive to the imperialist policies pursuing ignoble objectives. Al-Majid urged that these nations join forces against the imperialist policies, asserting that popular will is more than a match for the arms of aggression—a fact our heroic Iraqi people exemplified through their faith in their just cause, their interaction with their patriotic leadership, and by taking on and triumphing over the armies of 28 nations in the greatest duel of modern times, the memorable Mother of Battles.

Meanwhile, Gen. Kolotov has applauded the steadfastness and guts of the Iraqi people, as well as their striving leadership and their standing up to U.S. imperialists. History, he declared, will not spare the traitors who have sold out to foreigners.

The Russian parliamentarian criticized conspiracies and attempts by the allied nations to meddle in Iraq's domestic affairs under the guise of UN resolutions.

He called for the iniquitous embargo to be lifted. When they returned home, he added, he and his delegation would promote a resolution in the Russian Parliament urging the removal of the sanctions against their Iraqi friends. We will also inform the Russian people of the truth about the plots and aggression the striving Iraqi people are having to endure, said Kolotov.

Russian Parliamentarian Denounces Blockade

JN1704175393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Apr (INA)—Ilya Konstantinov, Russian parliamentary deputy and chairman of the committee for the Russian Salvation Front, has stressed the need to lift the unjust blockade imposed on the Iraqi people.

At a news conference held here today at the end of a six-day visit to Iraq, he said that during the visit, he was briefed by Iraqi officials on the true situation facing Iraq as a result of the unjust blockade. He pointed out that after his return, he will urge the Russian parliament and Russian public opinion to support Iraq.

He denounced U.S. conspiracies and attempts to interfere in Iraq's domestic affairs under the cover of Security Council resolutions.

He praised the strong, historic ties between the two peoples and parliaments in Iraq and Russia, stressing the importance of promoting these cordial ties to serve both countries' interests.

The head of the Russian parliamentary delegation reviewed the Russian Government's policy to obliterate national ideas, as well as its attempts to destroy Russia's economy and its relations with many countries. Despite this, he added, the National Salvation Front, which has 50 percent of the votes in parliament and which includes many parties and social organizations, is seeking to pass resolutions it deems appropriate to bolster relations with many states and parliaments, including Iraq.

Permission for Air Travel for Pilgrims Urged

JN2004121693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Apr (INA)—The National Progressive and Patriotic Front [NPPF] has appealed to the president of the UN Security Council and the UN secretary general to play their humanitarian, moral, and legal role toward the Iraqi people, who are suffering from the unfair embargo that has been imposed on them.

In a statement, the NPPF called for permitting the transportation of Iraqis who wish to perform the pilgrimage this year by Iraqi civil airliners since their transportaion by land is difficult and will adversely affect the health of elderly and female pilgrims. The NPPF also called on the forces and political parties in the Arab homeland and the Islamic World to support Iraq's legitimate request to transport Iraqi pilgrims by its civil airliners to perform this sacred duty in these blessed months. The NPPF affirmed that perpetuating the unfair embargo on Iraq is aimed at achieving conspiratorial political objectives against Iraq and Arabism, and has nothing to do with the resolutions of international legitimacy. This embargo is unfair and a blatant violation of human rights. It is also a breach of the UN Charter as well as the divine and man- made laws, the statement added.

'Regime Supporters' Said Killed in Mosul Explosion

NC2004145993 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] In the wake of the recent explosions in Baghdad, operations against the regime of tyrant Saddam Husayn are escalating and security disruptions in most Iraqi governorates are on the rise. According to opposition sources, a strong explosion recently in Mosul killed several regime supporters. The tyrant's authorities ordered their forces to cordon off the site of the blast, which occurred near Firnas Air Base.

Kurdish Parties Condemn Iranian Shelling

NC2004172793 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] The Organizational Center of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan in al-Sulaymaniyah and the Fourth Branch of the Kurdistan Democratic Party-Iraq issued a joint statement yesterday condemning the Iranian artillery shelling of certain villages and areas in Iraqi Kurdistan.

The statement says that the shelling is a new link in the chain of encroachments on our peace- and freedom-loving Kurdish people. The statement notes that the shelling also targeted certain areas within the no-fly zone and the 36th parallel.

The statement calls on Iran to pursue a peaceful and democratic course in resolving the Kurdish issue in Iran instead of attacking the headquarters of anti-Iranian political parties.

The statement urges the members, supporters, and peshmergas of the two parties, other political parties in Kurdistan, and the people of al-Sulaymaniyah to help the wounded and lodge complaints with UN human rights organizations over this act of aggression.

The statement says the area has been put on alert to confront any hostility and to defend Iraqi Kurdistan's sovereignty and independence.

Radio Reports Iraqi Brigadier General Killed

NC1904171393 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] According to reliable sources in Baghadad, an armed group killed Staff Brigadier General Abu-Wajdi, official in charge of the military branch of the Ba'th Party in Baghdad, a few days ago.

The sources said Abu-Wajdi played a criminal role in the confrontation of the uprising in southern Iraq. He is responsibile for killing scores of citizens in al-Basrah Governorate.

Army Attacked in al-'Amarah

NC1804151393 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1330 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] As part of their effective operations against the regime's troop concentrations in the southern marshlands, the heroic forces of the Islamic revolution resistance have launched a multipronged attack on the regime's forces from al-Najjarah to al-Jarmaliyat in the al-'Amarah marshlands.

Our sources in the south reported that during the two-hour operation, most of the regime's positions, armored concentrations, and heavy weapons were destroyed. Our sources listed the regime's losses as follows: fifteen armored and various other military vehicles; three 100-mm field guns; four medium-caliber machine guns; 10 tents used for housing troops and storing light- and medium- caliber weapons; and two equipment stores. The sound of explosions could be heard for a long time. The resistance forces also killed or injured more than 70 officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers.

New Iraqi Opposition Grouping Formed

JN2004085093 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] In London, it has been learned that a new Iraqi opposition grouping has been formed. This grouping is the Iraqi Central Committee for Dialogue and Follow up [al-lajnah al-markaziyah al-'iraqiyah li al-hiwar wa al-mutaba'ah]. The grouping was established in the British capital at the end of last week and the members of its central committee were elected. The grouping is headed by 'Abd-al-Razzaq 'Arif, former prime minister in the midsixties.

A statement issued by this grouping says that the central commitees' objective is to unite the ranks of all the Iraqi opposition and initiate a dialogue with all the opposition factions to establish an Iraqi national council that will be freely elected by all the Iraqis in exile.

'Abd-al-Razzaq 'Arif is currently residing in Cairo and was a member of the Iraqi National Congress which claims to represent all the factions that oppose Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Peace Process

TA2004163093 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Studio interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Dan Shilon; from the "New Evening" program—live]

[Text] [Shilon] Good evening, Foreign Minister Peres.

[Peres] Good evening.

[Shilon] Despite the flurry of meetings and hustle-bustle in the Arab world, one gets the impression that the Arab world and the Palestinians have ultimately fallen into line with 'Arafat. So why not speak with him directly and try to resolve matters?

[Peres] It is 'Arafat's line in the sense of timing, but it is the line decided by the Arab countries as far as content goes. In other words, 'Arafat has managed to delay the resumption of the talks, but they have definitely not been called off. As far as 'Arafat goes, I think we have two problems that cannot be ignored. First, 'Arafat is the president of the Palestinian diaspora and we have no solution for them, only for the residents of the territories. Second, 'Arafat and Fatah are still involved in terrorism.

[Shilon] If we are talking with Faysal al-Husayni, as head of the Palestinian delegation, then why not with 'Arafat?

[Peres] Faysal al-Husayni lives in the territories and is not involved in terrorism.

[Shilon] Mr. Peres, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin visited Egypt several days ago. After President Husni Mubarak's meeting with his Syrian counterpart Hafiz al-Asad, the Egyptian leader said that the Syrians are now offering everything in exchange for everything. Why does Israel not take the initiative, jump at the opportunity, and agree to everything in exchange for everything?

[Peres] As the old Israeli song goes: What do you mean when you promise everything? We know what he means when he asks us for everything and we also know what he means by everything in his case. He believes that everything is a normalization of relations but without embassies or open borders; in short, without any real content to the peace. In my opinion, al-Asad is trying to get Israel to first give him what he wants and then negotiate over what Israel wants in return.

[Shilon] But why do Israel's leaders not take the initiative and tell Husni Mubarak, if we cannot contact al-Asad directly, that if he wants to show initiative and lead the Arab world he should bring al-Asad to Jerusalem, so that Israel can find out what he means by everything. Why are the Israeli leaders following rather than leading the political initiatives?

[Peres] We said this on very many occasions. We asked al-Asad to come to Jerusalem like al-Sadat. Everything is open. We will hold open-ended negotiations. Moreover, we have stated that a visit by al-Asad would be of great help in convincing the Israeli public that he has serious intentions. Al-Sadat's visit constituted an important psychological precedent for the ultimate political agreement.

[Shilon] Mr. Peres, one last question. When will the peace talks resume, in your opinion?

[Peres] I think it is a matter of days, but it is hard to set a precise date. I agree that the delay was to a great extent the result of intra-Arab considerations. In effect, 'Arafat sought to score a political achievement from Syria and to receive money from Saudi Arabia. So far, the Syrians have been more forthcoming with financial help while the Saudi Arabians have offered political support. I think that 'Arafat wanted the Syrians to stop supporting the ten organizations which form the rejectionist front, and wanted the Saudi Arabians to renew economic aid because the PLO is in dire financial straits. In addition, there is the undeclared question of who will make the decisions—Damascus, Cairo, or Tunis. Each side wants to appear as the one making the decisions. Nevertheless, I believe that neither we nor the Arabs have any choice but to return to the talks. Any good idea is best enforced through agreement rather than in a unilateral manner.

[Shilon] Thank you very much, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Private Dealers Selling Arms to Bosnian Muslims

TA2004191993 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Israeli arms dealers and elements in Bosnia are currently engaged in negotiations over arms sales to the Muslims there. Our correspondent Hanan 'Azran reports that they are mainly talking about deliveries of ammunition and small arms. He has learned that the first shipment of ammunition has apparently left for Bosnia. He emphasizes that the deals are not being conducted by official Israeli elements, but are the initiative of private arms dealers. At stake is the shipment of over 3 metric tons of ammunition.

Russian Official on Iran Arms Sales, Support for PLO

TA2104062793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will visit Russia in approximately 45 days. This was reported by Boris Kolokolov, the Russian deputy foreign minister in a meeting with Israeli correspondents. Our correspondent Rina Matzliah reports from Moscow.

[Begin recording] [Matzliah] We lost 20 years in the development of relations between our two countries. This remark was made by the Russian deputy foreign minister in charge of Middle East affairs. But today, Deputy Minister Kolokolov noted, the foreign ministers of both countries maintain regular contacts, and Russia and Israel are currently preparing Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Russia, even though the exact date has yet to be set.

We asked the deputy minister whether there was a package deal which guaranteed the exit of refuseniks in exchange for the release of Shabtay Kalmanovich.

[Kolokolov remarks in Russian followed by Matzliah translation of Kolokolov's remarks] No, no, Kolokolov said. We have conveyed our gratitude to President Hayim Herzog for releasing Kalmanovich. That was a humanitarian gesture, but there was no package deal. Had we agreed to such a thing, that would be like horse-trading people, he said.

Dozens of Russian Jews are still being refused exit visas on the pretext that they had access to secret information while working in classified factories or organizations. Most of them have families in Israel but have been waiting in vain for exit visas for many years. Kolokolov asserted that there were also Armenians and Azerbaijanis who fell under this category. We do not permit them to leave Russia either, he said. The deputy minister asserted that this was a matter of national importance and involved state secrets.

As for the situation in the Middle East, the deputy foreign minister reiterated Russia's support for the PLO. The PLO aspires to continue the peace negotiations and expects Israel to make positive gestures. Mr. Kolokolov said that judging from talks he had held with 'Arafat the previous week, he had received the impression that the PLO was a stable organization which was on its way toward establishing relations with Israel.

We are closely monitoring Iran's weapons purchases, Kolokolov said. Russia is opposed to Iran achieving nuclear capability and has firmly insisted that any arms it receives would only serve for self-defense purposes and would not be used to attack or intervene in the affairs of other countries.

In conclusion, the Russian deputy foreign minister, who visited Israel several months ago, pointed out that in his opinion there were no threats to the continued immigration of Russian Jews. Their permission to leave, he noted, was firmly anchored by law. [end recording]

Ministry Sees No Change in Relations With Turkey

TA1804110793 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Apr 93 p A8

[Report by Yerah Tal]

[Excerpt] Officials at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem believe that Turkey's policy regarding Israel will not significantly change following the death of Turkish President Turgut Ozal. Political sources at the Foreign Ministry believe, however, that in some respects Turkish-Israeli relations will suffer some instability if the Turkish political parties are unable to agree on a presidential candidate.

It is believed that the reasons for Ozal's improving and tightening relation with Israel have not changed and that they secure the continuation of improved relations between the two countries.

Israel will remember Ozal as the Turkish leader when the level of relations between the two countries reached the highest possible level. Last year, Israel and Turkey for the first time exchanged ambassadors, some 40 years after Turkey recognized the State of Israel. [passage omitted]

Kozyrev Urges Rabin To Allow Deportees Return

TA1904130493 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 19 Apr 93 p 5

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev has called on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to announce already this week his willingness to allow the return of 50 Palestinians deported by the Israeli security authorities over the years. Our political correspondent has learned that the call is included in a message Kozyrev sent to Rabin over the weekend.

Officials in Jerusalem assess that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was privy to Kozyrev's move. In his message, Kozyrev briefs Rabin on Russia's efforts to persuade the Palestinians to return to the negotiating table with Israel.

According to Kozyrev, a public announcement by the prime minister concerning the Palestinians is of utmost importance because it may encourage them to drop their refusal to negotiate with Israel before the problem of the most recent deportees has been settled.

Speaking to the Israeli teams to the negotiations with the Arabs and the Palestinians, Prime Minister Rabin asserted that there would be no gestures whatsoever before the talks resume.

Russia Protests Israeli's Involvement in Arms Sales

TA1904164093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 19 Apr 93

[Text] Professor Ilya Zamtzov, who presents himself as Israeli businessman Ya'aqov Nimrodi's representative, brought to Georgia arms he purchased in Romania, our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports. It seems that Zamtzov is aiding the Georgian Government, which is at war with the Abkhazian Province. The Russians, who support the Abkhazians, recently protested to Jerusalem that Israelis are involved in the sale of arms being used in ethnic wars along its southern border. Nimrodi told our correspondent that Zamtzov does not represent him in Georgia.

Police Chief Suspends 3 for Abusing Arab

TA2104104393 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 21 Apr 93 p 1

[Report by Yoram Levi]

[Text] The police commissioner yesterday ordered to immediately suspend three border policemen who were filmed while cruelly beating up an Arab in the Gaza Strip.

Yesterday both international and Israeli television networks broadcast a incident in which three border policemen were shown repeatedly beating up an Arab who was asked to show his ID. The policemen were shown slapping the youth on the face and kicking him powerfully. Later they returned his ID and ordered him to go away.

Commissioner Rafi Peled said he views this incident gravely. He ordered to suspend the policemen and to launch an investigation by the Justice Ministry unit for investigating complaints against policemen.

Another 8,000 Permits for Palestinians After 26 Apr

TA2104101993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and several ministers have decided to permit the entry of another 8,000 workers from the territories into Israel after Independence Day [26 April]. Some 5,000 workers will be employed in construction work and another 3,000 in agriculture.

Our correspondent Ya'aqov Balsenboim reports that during today's meeting, which was attended by Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur, a proposal to import approximately 1,000 foreign agricultural workers in a controlled manner was rejected. The meeting was also attended by the construction and housing minister and the labor and social welfare minister.

Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer later told our correspondent Shmu'el Tal that the authorities would only permit the entry of Palestinian workers that had passed security screening.

The construction and housing minister told Qol Yisra'el that the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry would decide how the permits would be issued. When asked whether this signalled the first step in the lifting of the closure on the territories, Minister Ben-Eli'ezer stressed that there was no intention of returning to the situation that existed prior to the closure, in which tens of thousands of workers entered Israel in a disorganized manner. He said that there would be a transition period, after which the economy would have to rely exclusively on Israeli workers.

Prime Minister Rabin said that the closure in the territories had more than fulfilled expectations. He said that the closure signified a halt to the free movement of people from the territories into Israel, but that did not mean that there was no possibility of increasing the number of Palestinians working in Israel. Any such increase, however, would have to be closely monitored and subject to strict control.

Rabin said that the closure would continue for a prolonged period. At the same time, ways to resolve the problem of unemployment in Israel and the territories would be examined. Mr. Rabin was speaking at a meeting of the Labor Knesset faction. The Knesset plenum is still discussing nine motions to the agenda submitted by coalition and opposition parties.

Palestinians Injured in Gaza Strip Clashes

TA2104090593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Twenty residents were injured by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire in the Gaza Strip this morning. This was reported by sources in Gaza to our correspondent Moti Amir. The sources said that 12 people were wounded in clashes with soldiers in al-Nusayrat refugee camp when the troops set up a new observation post. Eight people were injured in Khan Yunus during stone-throwing incidents.

Settlers Arrested After 'Violent Demonstration'

TA2104045693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Near Qiryat Arba' last night, settlers held a violent demonstration, throwing stones and bottles and blocking the main road to Hebron. They were removed forcibly by police. Ten demonstrators were arrested. The settlers charged that several of their members were hurt.

Arab residents of Hebron complained later to police that the settlers had stoned cars, breaking the windshields of about ten. The inspector general of police, Rafi Peled, said last night that he recognizes the importance of demonstrating, but he would not allow protesters to go beyond the permits given them.

At a meeting with the heads of the Judaea and Samaria local councils last night, both sides agreed to consultations on demonstrations to avoid clashes with the police. Peled also disclosed that four Civil Guard stations are to be set up in the territories, in Ari'el, Ma'ale Efrayim, Ma'ale Adumim, and Giv'at Ze'ev.

One Wanted Man Killed in Gaza, 2 Captured

TA2004160393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] An armed terrorist was killed this afternoon by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers' gunfire in Gaza's Tuffah neighborhood. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that during searches in the neighborhood, an

armed terrorist came out of hiding and opened fire at the soldiers. An officer was slightly bruised, but he returned fire and killed the terrorist.

Tuffah has been under curfew since early this morning, when security forces captured two wanted men. The two initially opened fire at the soldiers, but nobody was hurt. The troops then activated explosive charges, blew up the walls of several houses to locate the place where the wanted men were hiding, and subsequently captured them. Four houses were severely damaged in the operation.

Another two wanted men were caught at noon near the town of Bani Suhaylah in the southern Gaza Strip. Searches for wanted men continue at this time in the al-Shati' refugee camp and in Gaza's Tuffah neighborhood.

Two Homes Sealed; 2 Fugitives Caught 20 Apr

TA2004123093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] The security forces this morning sealed the home of terrorist Salami Mari, from Qarawat Bani-Hasan. Mari was caught and later admitted his participation in an attack near the village of Buruqin last month, in which the soldier Gitay Avisar, from the settlement of 'Aley Zahav, was killed and two other soldiers were wounded.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the home of Muhammad Raji, from 'Azzun, was sealed after he admitted to having murdered a resident he suspected of collaboration with the authorities.

Two more fugitives were apprehended in the Tuffah neighborhood in Gaza, after the security forces clamped a curfew on the neighborhood and on the al-Shati' refugee camp.

Rocks Injure Policemen; Bombs Safely Dismantled

TA1904081293

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0400 GMT on 19 April reports that "two policemen were injured last night when rocks were thrown at them at the Shu'fat refugee camp in East Jerusalem. One policeman was taken with a light head injury to the Hadassah-Mount Scopus Hospital. The other officer, who was hit in the hand, was treated at the site. Five residents suspected of throwing stones were arrested.

"On the Shima-'Otni'el road, south of Hebron, a roadside charge was detonated last night as an Israeli vehicle passed close by. No one was injured and no damage was caused."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 19 April reports that "two explosive charges were discovered near Kibbutz Netzarim in the center of the Gaza Strip last night. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a sapper safely dismantled them."

Publication Ban Revoked on Journal MA'A AL-NAS

TA2004171193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] The Interior Ministry has retracted the ban on the publication of the East Jerusalem journal MA'A AL-NAS after its editor and the Civil Rights Association appealed the decision to the High Court of Justice.

Our legal affairs correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that MA'A AL-NAS is a monthly magazine dealing with social and political affairs which began appearing about 10 months ago and whose license was revoked about three months ago when the district commissioner argued that the monthly is financed by hostile elements.

In the wake of the appeal and after the owners promised not to be in contact with terrorist organizations, the Interior Ministry decided to renew the journal's license.

Polish Reportage on Rabin Visit to Poland

WA2104154093

For reportage on the visit by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to Poland, including reports on his talks with Polish Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka and his attendence at a ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising, please see the Poland section of the 20 April East Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Israeli Shelling of Villages in South Reported

NC2004133293 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] The area of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Mazra'at al-Hamra', the al-Litani River basin, and the Mlita, Jabal Safi, al-Luwayzah, and Mlikh areas in Iqlim al-Tuffah have been coming under intensive bombardment by 155-mm guns from the occupation forces' positions in al-Zaffatah since 1400 today.

Six Wounded

NC2004165393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Report by unidentified NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in al-Nabatiyah]

[Text] Following an artillery barrage from the occupation forces' positions today, tension and caution prevails in the liberated villages in the al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah areas. Six citizens in Jarju' were wounded by the shelling, which also caused extensive property damage. The occupation forces' artillery in al-Zaffatah began shelling al-Luwayzah, Arab Salim, Mlita, Jabal Safi, Jarju', and 'Ayn Bu Siwar with 82-mm and 120-mm mortars at 1400 today. The bombardment intensified at 1500 and extended to Humin al-Fawqa, Sarba, and the Arab Salim-Jba' road, halting traffic there. Citizens were forced to stay at home.

The following six citizens in Jarju' suffered various injuries: Sa'id Mushawrab, Husayn Muhammad al-Shami, Fitnah Amin al-Shami, Dalal Muhammad al-Shami, Husayn Rida Darwish, and a child named Zaynab Hasan Darwish.

The bombardment was accompanied by overflights by Israeli helicopters, which raked the wadis and hills in the area.

Islamic Resistance Claims Attacks on Israelis, SLA

NC2004174293 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Excerpts] The situation in the south became tense this afternoon following an Islamic Resistance attack, the outcome of which is unknown, and a violent Israeli bombardment which left six people wounded in Jarju'. Sirens were sounded in Jazzin this afternoon to warn of possible shelling.

Citing a source close to the South Lebanese Army [SLA], AFP has reported that two SLA members were killed in an attack in the border strip's central sector. Our military correspondent says the attack targeted a civilian car in 'Aramta carrying five passengers, three of whom were wounded. The other two are missing.

The Islamic Resistance has claimed responsibility for four operations carried out at approximately 1400 today. A resistance statement said one of its groups detonated an explosive charge under an Israeli-SLA patrol on 'Aramta-al-Rayhan Road, killing or wounding the patrol members. The statement added that a clash took place on 'Aramta-al-Rayhan Road between an Israeli-SLA patrol and resistance men who had ambushed the patrol using rockets and machine guns. The resistance also announced that it attacked an Israeli post in Sujud and an SLA post in Bi'r Kallab.

These attacks were followed by violent Israeli shelling of the Iqlim al-Tuffah area, which began shortly after 1830 against the Iqlim al-Tuffah Hills and villages adjacent to the border strip, where shells were reported to fall at a rate of up to seven per minute.

The intermittent bombardment of Mlita Hill, Jabal Safi, al- Luwayzah, and the vicinity of Jarju' with 155-mm shells began around 1400. It intensified shortly after 1500 against Jarju' and 'Ayn Bu Siwar and also targeted Humin al-Fawqa and the outskirts of Sarba. [passage omitted covered in referent item]

Lebanese Army antiaircraft guns confronted Israeli aircraft which flew over al-Nabatiyah this afternoon.

IDF, SLA Shell Terrorist Targets

TA2004133393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Two SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers were killed by fire directed at their positions in the Sujud area in the eastern sector of the security zone. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that in response IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA artillery are currently shelling terrorist targets north of the security zone.

Soldiers Said Kidnapped

TA2004191393 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Two SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers were kidnapped this afternoon by Hizballah terrorists, when the car they were driving was ambushed with mortar fire and RPG's. The incident took place in the Sujud area in the eastern sector of the security zone in south Lebanon.

Our correspondent in the north Moti Eden reports that uncertainty prevailed for over two hours about their fate. At the same time, Hizballah terrorists fired mortar shells and katyusha rockets at several SLA positions. In response, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA artillery directed heavy fire at the source of the Hizballah shelling north of the security zone.

Shelling in South Detailed

NC2104095593 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0900 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Several southern villages and towns have been coming under fierce large-caliber artillery fire from occupation forces' positions since 0945 today. According to

our correspondent in the south, the enemy shelling is being directed at the areas of Mlita, Jabal Safi, al-Luwayzah, 'Ayn Bu Siwar, Mlikh, Jarju', 'Arab Salim, al-Jabal al-Akhdar hill, 'Ayn Qana, Humin, and Jba'. At times, shells fell at the rate of five a minute. The shelling came from the positions of the enemy and his agents in al-Zaffatah, Sujud, and al-Suwayda'.

Resistance fighters returned fire. Shells reportedly fell in enemy and agent positions inside the occupied border strip.

The enemy and his agents are searching for two agents [South Lebanese Army, SLA, soldiers]; enemy sources said Hizballah kidnapped them yesterday following an operation carried out against a joint enemy patrol on the 'Aramta-al-Rayhan road.

'Resistance' Captures SLA Sergeant in South

NC2104100293 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0933 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] According to information made available to the Voice of Lebanon, the Islamic Resistance has succeeded in taking away South Lebanese Army [SLA] Sergeant Elie Nichola Abu-al-Kasm, who was taken prisoner after an ambush along the 'Aramta-al-Rayhan road [yesterday].

According to reports, resistance elements managed to break the cordon thrown by the Israeli army around the area and took Abu-al- Kasm to the rear lines. The fate of Majid Khuri, who was in the ambushed car, is unknown.

In another development, Israeli warplanes are currently flying over Ba'labakk. Ground defense fire is being directed against the planes. The warplanes overflew Sidon and Iqlim al-Tuffah as well.

The artillery bombardment of south Lebanon has been renewed.

Finance Minister on 1993 General Budget Bill

JN2104094093 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] The People's Assembly held a session under Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah this evening. Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi; Rashid Akhtarini, deputy prime minister for services affairs; Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; and cabinet ministers attended.

The assembly listened to a statement read by the finance minister on the state general budget bill for Fiscal Year 1993. Finance Minister Dr. Muhammad Khalid al-Mahayini explained that the state general budget is an extremely important tool of fiscal planning, given that it is instrumental in creating new income and new production potential and also in promoting the economic and social development process.

The finance minister emphasized that the budget bill for 1993 was drafted after thorough studies had been conducted. These studies took into account the overall economic developments and realities; the overall instructions regarding self-reliance, rationalizing public expenditure, and enhancing domestic revenues; as well as the allocations required to finance new development projects.

The finance minister pointed out that the government is working to provide various basic services to citizens, promote and upgrade health services, and provide the requirements for these services. He noted that the budget bill spelled out the necessary investments for the projects of basic industrial sectors and stressed the need to accelerate the implementation of urgent projects and invest in them, particularly the projects pertaining to gas, electricity, drinking water, educational facilities, the construction of roads and railroads, and the creation of new job opportunities.

The finance minister explained that to enhance the moves aimed at creating a more balanced situation, the government seeks to promote taxation legislation to bring about fairness and encourage the investment of capital in production projects so as to promote the national economic objectives. The government also seeks to upgrade economic performance in the public sector's economic institutions, reduce production costs, improve quality, reduce all forms of waste, and increase the benefits drawn from available production capacity.

The statement read out by the finance minister contained analytical figures and statistics regarding revenues and expenditure. The finance minister said that the prime objectives of the national economy at this phase aim at addressing the major issues it is facing so that it may proceed with efforts to implement the projects included in the economic and social development plan at a faster pace.

The finance minister added: Pursuant to the instructions of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and the decisions made by the party's congresses, the government has spelled out the means to be used, identified the courses of action to be employed, and started efforts to achieve the objectives. He explained the measures the government has adopted as part of the overall economic policy, which, as economic realities and indicators showed, have resulted in increased production and exports, rationalized imports, and effected stability in the exchange rate of the national currency.

Concluding his statement, the finance minister affirmed that the contribution of the People's Assembly members to the debate by way of making further remarks and submitting suggestions will help the government achieve the desired objectives. The People's Assembly session is still in progress.

Al-Asad Sends Condolence Cable on Ozal's Death

JN1804171093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has sent a cable of condolences to acting Turkish President Husamettin Cindoruk on the death of Turkish President Turgut Ozal. Following is the text:

With deep regret, we received the news on the death of the late Turgut Ozal, president of the Republic of Turkey.

We have known the late president quite well during our meetings with him, and came to know of his spirit of concern for developing cooperation between our two countries.

I, on behalf of the Syrian Arab people, on my own behalf, and on behalf of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, send to you and the Turkish people my deepest condolences, hoping that you will convey our feelings of sympathy to the family of the late president.

May God have mercy on him and grant him paradise.

Radio: U.S. Policies 'Undermine' Peace

JN2004150093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1138 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: It was only natural for the Arabs to bide their time before they take a final stand on participation in the ninth round of talks, which were scheduled to begin in Washington today. After all, the Arabs, who have run into Israeli gimmicks and maneuvering during the past eight rounds of talks, are concerned this time with seeing that the talks are based on clear foundations and that they produce tangible results. They do not want the talks to be sidetracked by Israeli proposals, which run counter to the essence of relevant Security Council resolutions. Given Israel's crude and gruesome practices

in the occupied Arab territories; namely, the deportation of hundreds of Palestinians, stepped-up repression and oppression, and the imposition of a military siege on our kinfolk living under occupation, the Arabs have found themselves compelled to ask for clarifications and explanations from the United States, particularly since the latter was the party which called for the convocation of the ninth round of talks, not to mention the fact that it is the party which committed itself to a just and comprehensive settlement on all fronts—a settlement based on the principle of exchanging land for peace. Furthermore, it is the United States which undertook the role of a full partner and an honest broker in the talks. Additionally, it is the country which is most capable of bringing effective pressure to bear on the Israeli rulers to make them come to their senses.

The Arabs expect the United States to take an unequivocally firm stand regarding the implementation of Security Council Resolution 799, which provides for the immediate and safe repatriation of the Palestinian deportees. The United States endorsed the aforementioned resolution and has denounced previous deportations. However, the Clinton administration disappointed us when it failed to uphold the deportee issue and undermined the authority of the Security Council by concluding a package deal with Rabin—a deal that was monstrously used by the latter to insinuate that the positions of the U.S. administration continue to be formulated in Tel Aviv rather than in Washington. Furthermore, the administration of President Clinton has demonstrated its imbalance as well as lack of objectivity when it announced an enhancement and expansion of its strategic alliance with Israel. This was made manifestly clear when Rabin returned home from his visit to Washington with promises of financial and military aid.

The Arabs have consistently demonstrated their true concern for peace, and made persistent efforts toward that end. To achieve this objective, they demanded the removal of the obstacles Israel is placing in the path of peace. However, the contacts they have held with others in this regard have failed to produce any results. As for Rabin, he has begun to act as if Arab participation in the ninth round of talks was taken for granted, regardless of his troops' savage practices in the occupied Arab territories. Hence, the Arabs unanimously decided to bide their time and hold further consultations and contacts to ensure that the obstacles standing in the path of peace are removed. The main obstacle hampering progress in the peace talks is Israel's intransigence. When they attended the Madrid conference, the Arabs acted on their own free will. They had strong convictions in this regard, as well as specific principles in mind. They are not willing to succumb to Israeli dictates. Likewise, an Arab decision to take part in the ninth round of talks, or any future round of talks for that matter, is bound to emanate from an unfettered decisionmaking process and free will. The Arabs are not fond of listening to the Israelis articulating impossible conceptions and security premises, even though they strongly desire to achieve a just and true peace—a peace that would ensure the restoration of the occupied territories to their rightful owners, free the Palestinian people of nightmarish occupation, and end Israel's gruesome practices.

The Arabs are fully aware that the Israeli rulers are not after peace, but rather after expansion and further expansion at the expense of Arab territory. Furthermore, the Arabs are fully aware that Israel's claims of peace do not hold water. Notwithstanding this, they responded to the U.S.-Russian peace initiative favorably and positively in the hope that the United States would honor its pledges and use its great leverage to uphold justice and ensure the implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions.

Peace would undoubtedly be advantageous to the region, and to the world at large. However, peace would also be advantageous to the United States, whose image and credibility have been grievously damaged and weakened by Israel in the Arab and Islamic worlds. The achievement of a just Middle East peace on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 would enable the United States to restore its friendship with the people of this region. As for its pursuit of pro-Israel policies, it will not only undermine the peace process, but will also seriously jeopardize U.S. credibility. Hence, the Arabs have questioned the U.S. conception of a full partner and an honest broker. The Arabs wonder whether this means that the United States will put its weight behind efforts to implement UN resolutions, end Israeli occupation, and ensure the restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights. Given the Rabin government's intransigence, its serious practices in the occupied territories, and its declared refusal to honor the resolutions of international legitimacy and international conventions, as well as its consistent endeavors to divide Arab ranks, all these questions have become pressing. As for Arab ranks, they will remain too cohesive and strong to be breached. The Arabs are advocates of a just and comprehensive peace. This means that they will all head for the peace talks, and that no party will make a unilateral decision in this regard.

For its part, Syria is keen on the unity and cohesion of Arab ranks, just as it is keen on rendering the peace process a success. It will not allow anyone to create a single loophole in the unified Arab position.

Afghanistan

Mas'ud Said Preparing Drive Against Hezb-e Eslami

LD2004164493 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] A correspondent of Radio Message of Freedom, quoting a jehadi source in Parwan Province, has reported to us that [Ahmad Shah] Mas'ud has gone to Jabal-e Seraj in preparation for a planned and extensive drive against the mojahedin of Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party]. The source adds that Mas'ud has started consultations with commanders of the Supervisory Council and the communist generals to make operational plans for fighting against Hezb-e Eslami. The source adds that Mas'ud has been ready to launch such an attack for some time but faces a manpower shortage. [passage indistinct]

Gaylani Urges ICO Role in Country

LD2004203893 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Esteemed Pir Sayd Ahmad Gaylani, leader of the National Front [Mahaz-e Meli] of Afghanistan, met this morning in his residence with Mr. France Oquilo, political adviser of the UN secretary general's office in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and exchanged views on issues of interest. A Bakhtar correspondent reports: In the meeting, emphasizing the role of the United Nations in resolving world problems, esteemed Pir Sayd Ahmad Gaylani said: The establishment of stability and the setting up of a broad-based government in Afghanistan necessitate peaceful conditions, and it is necessary for international organizations, especially the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], to help Afghans achieve a lasting peace and for it to supervise the Islamabad Accord.

Esteemed Pir Sayd Ahmad Gaylani called for the participation of neighboring, regional and other countries of the world in the reconstruction and revival of Afghanistan. In response Mr. France Oquilo promised the reopening of the UN offices in Kabul and provinces and the provision of aid for the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Commentator Views Crisis in Pakistan

LD2004192793 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] The political situation has been damaged in a neighboring Muslim country by the sacking of Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister of that country, and the dissolution of parliament by Ghulam Ishaq Khan, president of Pakistan. The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY political commentator on regional issues analyses the current political situation in Pakistan:

Nearly two years ago during the premiership of Benazir Bhutto a similar incident took place. Then, too, Ghulam Ishaq Khan sacked the government of Mrs. Benazir Bhutto under the authority that paragraph 12 of Article 38 of the Constitution confers on him. Now after talk of political differences between the prime minister and president of Pakistan for some months, and while the cabinet of Nawaz Sharif was heading toward falling as a result of the resignation of eight ministers, the president announced his decision about the sacking of the prime minister. Reasons for the sacking of Nawaz Sharif's cabinet in the speech of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan were corruption, lack of stability in the discharge of national duties, wrong guidance of administrative affairs, and the rise in unemployment in the country. A veteran politician and famous member of the parliament, Mr. Mir Balkh Sher Mazari has been designated to form an interim cabinet for three months until general elelctions are held. Nawaz Sharif, who was appointed leader of the Muslim League after the death of Mohammad Khan Junejo, recently tried to get rid of that part of the Constitution which gives the president the authority to sack the government and dissolve parliament. This amendment was introduced by [late President] General Ziaul Haq. But before he succeeded in removing this article it was used against him. However, it is said that Nawaz Sharif might complain to the Supreme Court of the country in his defense and try to secure [words indistinct] by addressing rallies of his supporters [words indistinct].

Political observers believe that Benazir Bhutto, former prime minister of Pakistan and Nawaz Sharif's political rival, has played a great role in the determination of Nawaz Sharif's fate. And it is surmised that she will have a considerable share in the future cabinet. After the sacking of Nawaz Sharif, Benazir Bhutto said that she has acted to utilize the opportunity, and will take part in the elections that will be held after three months. Unsavory effects have come about in other sections of the life of the country after recent political changes in Pakistan. The currency market in particular has been heavily damaged in the commercial market of the country, and economic stability is threatened. The state and people of Afghanistan follow profoundly the current situation in Pakistan. Pakistan is such a country that her state and people have not spared any cooperation and aid during the sacred jihad of the Afghans. Afghans hope that Pakistan's leaders overcome their current problems very soon with political knowledge and vision.

* Rabbani: Lack of Cabinet Hekmatyar's Fault

93AS0756A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 16 Apr 93 p 8

[Interview with President Borhanoddin Rabbani by 'Abdallah al-Haj in Kabul; date not given: "Afghan President Ascertains That Weapons May Not Be Used in Wake of Mecca Accord"]

[Text] Kabul—Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani has held Prime Minister-designate Golboddin Hekmatyar responsible for obstructing the steps to declare a new cabinet and has accused him of misleading the Arab

mujahidin to make them fight on his side and to embroil them in internal conflicts with which they have nothing to do.

In an interview AL-HAYAH conducted with him at the Presidential Palace in Kabul, Rabbani said that the current problem is not confined to Hekmatyar's approval of the nomination of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud to the post of defense minister in the anticipated cabinet, but also includes objection by all parties to Hekmatyar's exclusive selection of the cabinet members.

Rabbani urged the Arab countries to provide his country with aid through Kabul Airport, which recently was opened to air traffic, so as to rescue some parts of the country from a food shortage that has begun to threaten their inhabitants with starvation.

Rabbani stressed that the honorable Mecca peace accord is an important step after which one may not resort to the use of weapons to achieve political ends. This accord has the elements of success, especially its sponsorship by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques.

He thanked Iran and Pakistan for hosting Afghan refugees during the war, but he also expressed his hope that neighboring and friendly countries will not interfere in his country's domestic affairs and that these countries' contacts will be confined to the legitimate Afghan Government, embodied by the head of state and the prime minister. The following is the text of the interview:

[al-Haj] What part of the honorable Mecca accord has been accomplished to date and are there problems confronting it?

[Rabbani] There is no doubt that the honorable Mecca accord is an important step on the path of providing peace and security to Afghanistan. The Islamic State of Afghanistan seeks to solve all problems by way of peaceful political dialogue. From now on, it is not permissible to use arms to achieve political ends. This is not permissible by the shari'ah or by law. This is why in all phases, we have demanded solution by way of political dialogue solely. I believe that the meetings that were held and that produced this accord had the elements of success, beginning with the sponsorship by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and ending with creation of all the political circumstances for accomplishing the accord. I believe that since that day, it has become unreasonable to resort to the language of bullets, and this is how things should be from now on.

[al-Haj] But what has been accomplished in connection with proclaiming a cabinet? Are there problems confronting you?

[Rabbani] We are exerting our efforts to help Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar to select the cabinet team. We want a harmonious cabinet to be formed so as to obstruct any future problems, so we will not resume fighting, and so we will create all the conditions to enable Hekmatyar make his selections within the framework of approval of all parties and, thus, form the cabinet and present it to the head of state to be approved and then declared.

[al-Haj] Will the cabinet be declared soon and will the problem of including Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud be solved?

[Rabbani] We hope that Hekmatyar will succeed in selecting his team of ministers quickly. But it is no secret to you that the problem of delaying announcement of the cabinet is not just because of the person of the defense minister. Rather, all parties became angry when they learned that Mas'ud has not been chosen defense minister, not because he has or has not been selected, but because they were not consulted on the cabinet makeup in the first place. Approval of this makeup by the parties is fundamental. As for the Defense Ministry and the question of selecting Mas'ud, this matter is tied not just to this country's security situation and stability but also to bolstering implementation of the honorable Mecca accord and to having Mas'ud as a strong arm assisting the prime minister himself. All parties are aware that Mas'ud is the man who can protect Afghanistan in these sensitive circumstances, which dictate enlisting the help of all sincere Mujahidun. Believe me, the delay in announcing the cabinet is not because of Mas'ud but because of the parties' objection to this makeup.

[al-Haj] What is your evaluation of the Iranian role in your country and what is the position of the pro-Iran parties, especially since there are Shiite Afghan parties that continue to shell Kabul?

[Rabbani] Our opinion is that our neighbors who helped us by hosting large numbers of Afghan refugees, especially Pakistan and Iran—and we thank these countries for hosting those refugees—should refrain from interfering in Afghanistan's domestic affairs. Now that the legitimate government has taken power in Kabul, we believe that any contacts must be made through the legitimate channels, such as the presidency or the premiership, and that no official relations should be established with any party other than the legitimate State of Afghanistan. This is because providing aid to parties or militias without coordination with the government means exposing Afghanistan to instability. Therefore, we entreat all neighboring countries to play a positive role in bolstering Afghanistan's stability. We hope that they will help us accomplish this.

Militias and Shiites

[al-Haj] What is the role of the Uzbek militias and Shiite parties in the coming phase?

[Rabbani] We demand that the legitimate government in Afghanistan be reinforced and that its orders be obeyed so there will be no problems in the future. Some problems are provoked by the Shiite Unity Party from time to time. We still demand that no weapons be used to solve problems. We hope that the various segments and classes

of the Afghan people will put pressure on these aggressive policies that undermine and threaten Afghanistan's national security anew.

[al-Haj] What are the plans to rebuild Kabul, the devastated capital? What is your friends' role in rebuilding Afghanistan?

[Rabbani] There is no doubt that the devastation in Kabul is part of the comprehensive devastation that has been inflicted on Afghanistan in its entirety. The latest shelling took care of destroying Kabul's infrastructure. I believe firmly that we need the aid of friendly countries, especially of our Muslim brothers. Without this aid, the government alone will not be able to rehabilitate and rebuild Kabul because it doesn't have any assets. We have to begin from scratch. We believe that the Islamic countries, led by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, must accelerate the provision of prompt aid and assistance. While we thank the countries that helped us during the emigration and the jihad, we urge them to move promptly to help us during the reconstruction phase. We hope to be able to begin rebuilding Kabul, the capital, this year and then the other devastated Afghan cities. Of course, this will not be possible without the help of brothers and friends.

[al-Haj] Have you launched Arab and Islamic contacts to rebuild Kabul, the capital?

[Rabbani] To date, no effective action has taken place toward this end. But during our latest visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz promised that he will send a team of experts from all specializations to rehabilitate Kabul.

[al-Haj] It has been noticed that a large part of the foreign aid you receive passes through Pakistan first. This wastes time and effort. Why isn't this aid delivered to you directly?

[Rabbani] I believe that since we entered Kabul and took over our country's government legally, there has been no justification for foreign aid to be delivered through external parties. Let me declare here that Kabul Airport is open and secure for air traffic and international aviation. Rather, all Afghan airports are ready to receive aid.

I believe that we are in the direst need of this aid now that starvation has hit (Gob) and Herat in west Afghanistan. With the return of emigrants to their towns, especially to Herat, the conditions warn of a human catastrophe because of the unavailability of food for hundreds of thousands of repatriates. In (Gur) Province, tens of thousands are threatened with starvation. You can imagine what happens when nearly 1.5 million refugees return from Iran and head directly for Herat, where food and shelter are not available.

I appeal to friends and brothers to send foodstuffs and medical aid to Kabul and to all Afghan airports promptly so that they can contribute to rescuing their brothers from death by starvation.

[al-Haj] Have you released all of the Russian prisoners you hold?

[Rabbani] We still hold some of these prisoners. We release some of them from time to time. This is done through direct contacts with the Russian side.

[al-Haj] What about political action in Afghanistan? Will you try to achieve a democratic life in the future?

[Rabbani] There has to be a tendency to solve all issues by political dialogue. It is no secret that the Islamic state has created a unique model with its experiment in Afghanistan. Today, we are not killing Afghans who fought us alongside the communists. Many mujahidin feel pained when they see people who killed their parents or brothers in the near past going free now. We have declared that we will not task anybody except by way of the judiciary. Tomorrow, when the government completes its mainstays, then there is no objection to litigation before the courts. I believe that this is a unique democratic model offered by the Islamic State of Afghanistan. We hope that we will give everybody the freedom of expression and of political action within the bounds of the Islamic law and the Afghan people's interest.

[al-Haj] The Arab mujahidin have become a problem for the Pakistani authorities. They even became involved in the fight against you recently. What is your opinion on this issue?

[Rabbani] I feel pained over this sad issue. We thank the Arab countries and peoples who supported us during the ordeal, who sent their young men to fight side-by-side with us in the trenches, and who supplied us with physicians, teachers and specialists that have provided great services. We still note this with utter gratitude, and Afghanistan will never forget it. We still welcome all specialized Islamic capabilities to contribute to rebuilding and reconstructing Afghanistan. We welcome our Arab brothers in this field. What has happened is that Hekmatyar has misled some Arab young men and persuaded them to fight with his ranks against us. We ask with regret: Why does Hekmatyar embroil these Arab mujahidin in a conflict to which they are not a party in the first place? Why does he sentence them to death for aggression against their brothers, with whom they fought against communism in the near past? These people have not realized that the jihad ended when communism was expelled, and that what is happening now is tantamount to rebellion against the state and aggression against the legitimate government by a certain party that has employed tendentious propaganda to mislead these young men. Despite this, we have talked to the Pakistani authorities in pursuit of accuracy in this regard, especially since there are Arab and Islamic organizations that continue to provide us and the Pakistani Government with humanitarian services.

India

Rao on Operational Readiness, Pakistan Ties

BK2004130093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] The prime minister has stressed nonconfrontational efforts to resolve the problems between the countries. Addressing the Army commanders in New Delhi, Mr. P.V. Narasmiha Rao said in the changed scenario there is a need for protecting our immediate national interests and to maintain operational preparedness. He said after the end of the superpower rivalry and cold war, the countries in the region will have to give a thought for a new world order of peace, prosperity, and cooperation.

About Pakistan, the prime minister said that India has taken quite a few positive steps in the last two years to improve relations with that country. He said reciprocation to our friendly overtures will now have to wait till the political situation in Pakistan stabilizes. The prime minister said India, however, will continue its efforts to settle all bilateral matters as per the spirit of the Simla Agreement.

The minister of state for defense, Mr. Mallikarjun, emphasized optimum utilization of resources and development of indigenous defense production capability.

Rocket Launch Provides 'Valuable Scientific Data'

BK2004132493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Indian space scientists successfully launched a 95 kg Rohini rocket yesterday from Sriharikota launching center in Andhra Pradesh. The rocket, RH-560, carries scientific payloads developed by Indian and German scientists. According to Indian Space Resarch Organization [ISRO] spokesman, the rocket—which reached the predetermined altitude of 325 km—has already provided valuable scientific data on dynamics of equatorial ionosphere. The launch was witnessed by a team of space scientists led by the chairman of the ISRO, Professor U.R. Rao.

Commentary Views Dismissal of Pakistani Government

BK2004115093 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Commentary by S.K. Nayyar]

[Text] With the swiftness and lethal force of a king cobra, Pakistan President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has struck for the second time in slightly over three years. The latest victim is Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif who has been bundled out of office and threatened [with] prosecution for every crime (?listed) in the penal code. Hopefully, his fate will not be as extreme as that of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, who was hanged by the then president, Ziaul Haq in 1979. It is indeed ironical that soon after the recent confident prediction of Pakistan National Assembly Speaker Gauhar Ayub Khan in Delhi of India's disintegration, his own country has been plunged into an acute political crisis.

Pakistan Premier Nawaz Sharif has been dismissed and the National Assembly dissolved. The sacking of the Sharif government had been on the cards given the estrangement between the president and the premier. Differences between the two had first emerged in January when Mr. Ishaq Khan imposed his own choice as the army chief of staff upsetting the balance in the ruling troika against Mr. Nawaz Sharif. This had made Mr. Sharif restive, especially as the Eighth Amendment to the Pakistan Constitution had vested in the president extraordinary powers, including the power of hiring and firing the prime minister, governors of the provinces, chiefs of staff of the Armed Forces, and even to dismiss elected governments and dissolve the legislature. The tussle quickly developed into an open confrontation. Mr. Ishaq Khan lost no time in hitting back [at] Mr. Sharif by engineering a series of resignations from his ministry. All this made it clear that Mr. Nawaz Sharif, too, would soon meet the fate of the two of his predecessors who were dismissed by the Pakistan president for demanding the prime ministerial form of government.

For Mr. Ishaq Khan's latest action has proved that Pakistan's elected government is still a broken reed. Indeed, the fact that the military backed presidents in Pakistan have thrice in the past five years toppled the elected governments shows that democracy is yet to strike firm roots in its soil. Power continues to be concentrated in the hands of the bureaucratic military feudal establishment. Fate of Nawaz Sharif was also clear when on Saturday he made the defiant broadcast accusing President Ghulam Ishaq Khan of a conspiracy to displace him. The cancellation of the army chief's visits to France and the United States was clear indication of the events to follow. Mr. Nawaz Sharif's attempt to expand the scope of democracy in Pakistan has thus failed as of previous attempts by prime ministers seeking to bust the power elites of Pakistan.

Having been groomed by the Army and establishment and made prime minister by them, it was widely expected that Mr. Nawaz Sharif would be a tame pet. But he refused to remain a puppet partly because mass pluralistic politics does not easily permit an elected prime minister to coexist in the troika power structure in which he is to play the junior most role. Ms. Benazir Bhutto has taken revenge on Nawaz Sharif who was one of the instruments in her fall. In the process, she has made the same mistake that Nawaz Sharif made in 1990. The president has succeeded in keeping the parliamentary forces divided lest they join hands and oust the president with two thirds majority, which, in any case, is not difficult to muster with the two main political players, Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto, joining hands. In fact, this was the time when they could trim the ISI [Inter-service Intelligence] that is becoming too powerful for any single political party in Pakistan to control.

For India there is difficult times ahead. [Pakistan's] relations with India are likely to touch a further low. Both the political parties to win in the forthcoming election would look for India baiting. Interference in Kashmir would follow unbridled anti-Indian rhetoric during the election campaign. But that may lead Pakistan to its own trap of being declared a terrorist state. India will have to be extra vigilant both in Kashmir and Punjab. Terrorists financed by drug money, armed by weapons supplied to the Afghan mojahedin by the CIA, Saudi Arabian agencies, and others would find way to India. Already, the Indo-Pak relations are accident-prone and there is constant need on the part of India to wait and watch.

Advani: India Will Become Nuclear Under BJP

BK2004155993 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 17 Apr 93 p 12

[By Tarun Basu]

[Text] NEW DELHI, April 16—India will go nuclear when a Bharatiya Janata Party, BJP, government comes to power, its leader Lal Krishna Advani has reiterated.

"I think that we have no option in this regard. Pakistan having become nuclear, China having been nuclear for many years now. India, simply in order to have its dealings with these two neighbours on a level ground, must be nuclear," Mr. Advani told INDIA ABROAD NEWS SERVICE in an extensive interview.

Mr. Advani said in principle his party was in favour of the world becoming non-nuclear as "we don't see any merit and virtue in nuclear armaments dominating the world scene." But with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, NPT, as it is being discriminatory against non-nuclear powers and in a hostile neighbourhood "India must go nuclear."

He said India should think in terms of basic changes in the NPT when it comes up for review in 1995 or "think in terms of signing the (present) NPT after becoming nuclear."

Mr. Advani's interview was the first after his party's national executive met at Calcutta where it gave a new orientation to its policies to prepare for general elections which it feels are not far away. Unwittingly, Mr. Advani spoke of "my government" while answering a question on the BJP's future policies. He did not deny that he could be the BJP's prime ministerial candidate by being the party's next president, but said he was against holding twin posts of parliamentary leader in that case.

Mr. Advani also said that the Bangladesh immigrant issue would become a "major poll plank" of his party. He said it was the BJP's duty "in the interest of the economy of the country to stop illegal migration" and "to ensure that illegal migrants are sent back."

He said all along the West Bengal border there had been a demographic invasion and huge areas had been lost to the Bangladeshi immigrants. He said the BJP was deeply concerned about it and "only a government like the Congress and pseudo-secularists can be unconcerned about it."

Mr. Advani said he had suggested to the Government to link the immigration issue to the Tin Bigha transfer last year, but the Government did not listen. The result was Bangladesh refuses even to recognise this problem now.

Mr. Advani acknowledged he had no ready-made solution to the problem in the event of Bangladesh refusing to take back the refugees. He said those who were demonstrating solicitude for the immigrants were not doing so on humanitarian grounds but because the Muslim refugees were useful vote banks.

He said the party made a distinction with Hindu migrants because one, they were coming here as victims of oppression and two, the country had an obligation to them because of the religious basis of partition.

Mr. Advani said Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao should not have met Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in Dhaka. "There was no point in talking to him and you ask him to hand back the Memons?" Mr Advani asked. "Is this the kind of appeal that is to be made by the Prime Minister of India to the Prime Minister of Pakistan?"

On Kashmir, which was dealt at length at the party's national executive meeting, Mr. Advani called the Government's policy "myopic" and "bankrupt" and said a political solution can only come about "when physically these militants are made to realise that militancy and terrorism will not pay."

He said only a tough policy that had worked in the northeast and now in Punjab would work in Kashmir as the militants must be made to realise that "you are dealing with the authority of the State whose authority has not crumbled yet."

Spokesman: BJP White Paper on Ayodhya 'Baseless'

BK2004160493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] The government today described as baseless and incorrect certain assertions made by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] in its white paper on Ayodhya. An official spokesman said in New Delhi that the BJP white paper quoted extensively from a summary of evidence prepared by officials. It is based on the evidence presented by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and All India Babri Masjid Action Committee during the early stages of negotiations held at the initiative of the former prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar. The spokesman said the officials had only summarized the evidence and arguments without coming to any conclusion. It is regretted

that this summary should have been presented in a distorted manner as if there was any conclusion by the government. Referring to the claim in the white paper that the Ayodhya cell had come to certain conclusions about the existence of a temple at the disputed site, the spokesman said the assertion is without any basis as the cell has not come to any such conclusion.

Response to Russian Kickback Rumors Demanded

BK2004101093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Several CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] and Janata Dal members in the Lok Sabha today demanded the government's reaction to a newspaper report on alleged kickbacks in a petroleum supply deal with Russia. Raising the matter during the zero hour, Mr. Saifuddin Chaudhary, CPI-M, referred to the newspaper report which quoted a senior Russian leader to say that kickbacks had been paid to Russian authorities for finalizing a deal to supply crude oil to India at a lower rate. Mr. Rabi Ray of the Janata Dal and many other opposition members asked why the government has not reacted to the report. The parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla, told the members that he was not aware of any notice given to the concerned minister on the issue to react to the demand by the members. The speaker asked the minister to consult the concerned minister and come forward with details.

Bihar Tribal Agitation 'Called Off'

BK2104110093 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] The Jharkhand agitation has been called off. This was announced by the minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, in the Lok Sabha today. He said the agitation has been called off at the insistance of the prime minister following a meeting between the leaders of the movement and Mr. Narasimha Rao. The minister was responding to the issue raised by the Congress-I member, Mr. Bhuta Singh, during the zero hour. Mr. Pilot said the Bihar chief minister, Mr. Lalu Prasad Yadav, had asked the Center to intervene in the matter as the agitation was paralyzing the administration in the state with a lot of damage to property. Following the prime minister's meeting today with the Jharkhand movement leaders, Mr. Shibhu Soreng, and Mr. Suraj Mandal, the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha [Liberation Front] decided to call off the agitation from 1100 this morning. They also agreed to participate in a tripartite meeting called by the Center. Meanwhile, a press release issued by the All Jharkhand Action Committee in New Delhi today said that the agitation has been suspended for 10 days to create a cordial atmosphere for the tripartite talks.

Menawhile, the 51-day blockade has resulted in a loss of an estimate 50 crore rupees. It specially affected the movement of minerals from the Loharadaga bauxite mines. The Jharkhand activists had blown up railway tracks at many places, disrupting freight movement. Extra-security had to be arranged with personnel deployed to protect the track. Movement of essential commodities was also disrupted with the activists burning up trucks on highways to scare away the operators.

Cabinet Approves Multilateral Guarantee Convention

BK2104031293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] India is to sign the Multi-Lateral Guarantee Convention to facilitate the greater flow of foreign investment into the country. The Union Cabinet approved the proposal to this effect at a meeting in the capital. One hundred and ten countries have signed the four-year old convention so far.

The Cabinet also approved the ratification of the agreement on rupee-ruble issue which was signed during the visit of the Russian president, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, to India.

Farm Subsidies 6 Percent of Domestic Product

BK2004120493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] The agriculture subsidies to the farmers went up to over 10,000 crore rupees during the last year. This was stated by the union agriculture minister, Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar, in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today. He said this is six percent of the net domestic product. Dr. Jakhar said these subsidies to farm sector are not unique to India as such assistance to the farmers are given in the developed economies like Japan, the United States and Canada. The minister said in India the subsidies are given to radically change the agriculture sector to a modern commercially viable occupation.

Iran

Velayati Urges Active ICO Role in Bosnia Issue

LD2004162593 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign minister, has sent a letter to Mr. Hamid Algabid, the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], referring to the UN resolutions lacking enforcement guarantee, and calling for the active participation of ICO members in helping the tyrannized and defenseless people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Mr. Velayati has also proposed an international court to be convened for trying war criminals.

Velayati To Head Delegation to Ozal Funeral

LD2004181493 Tehran IRNA in English 1542 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 20, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati will head an Iranian delegation to

Ankara to take part at funeral service of the late President Turgut Ozal on Wednesday [22 Apr].

Presidential Advisor for Women's Affairs Mrs. Shahla Habibi is among Velayati's entourage to Turkey.

Ozal died in Ankara on Saturday from heart failure. He will be buried in Istanbul after a religious service in Ankara tomorrow.

Va'ezi Receives Irish Health Minister

LD2004190893 Tehran IRNA in English 1648 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 20, IRNA—Visiting Irish Minister of Health Brendan Howlin in a meeting with Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-America Mahmud Va'ezi said his government is willing to expand scientific and economic relations with Tehran.

He denounced genocide of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and said that appropriate measures should be taken to halt such cruelty by serbs in the heart of Europe. Va'ezi stressed the need for confronting Serbian violence and mass killing in Bosnia and called for taking practical steps in this regard.

Iranian official also expressed concern over the continuation of fighting between Azerbaijan and Armenia and said that the belligerent parties should honour each other's territorial sovereignty.

On regional developments, Va'ezi said that the Islamic Republic of Iran was trying to preserve security and stability in the region through building friendly relations with the Persian Gulf littoral states. Va'ezi said that Iran along with some neighbouring countries work hard to end bloodshed in Afghanistan.

Expressing satisfaction over political understanding between the two countries, Va'ezi called for further activating Irano-Ireland joint economic commission.

[Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian at 1430 GMT notes the following: "A memorandum of understanding in the fields of health, investment in pharmaceutical production and medical equipment, exchange of students, and transfer of technology has been signed by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Ireland. According to this memorandum of understanding, the two countries will be cooperating on genetic engineering, carrying out joint projects, and also production of vaccines."]

Deputy Foreign Minister, Pakistani Discuss Ties

LD2104095193 Tehran IRNA in English 0704 GMT 21 Apr

[Text] Tehran, April 21, IRNA—A senior Pakistani official said here Tuesday that his country was following consolidation of ties with Iran as a fixed policy under any conditions.

The visiting Pakistani Deputy Foreign Minister Gul Hanif made the remark in a meeting with his Iranian counterpart Ala'eddin Boroujerdi.

Latest developments in Pakistan, promotion of Tehran-Islamabad ties, the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) and Afghanistan covered Hanif's talks with Boroujerdi.

Hanif hoped that Islamic countries would take suitable decisions to solve the current problems of the world of Islam during the impending ministerial meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

He also hailed the growing trend of the ECO's activities.

Boroujerdi said that Iran always favoured a powerful and integrated Pakistan as a part of the Islamic world in the region.

The ever-boosting trend of Tehran-Islamabad ties is a proof to the resolve of the two countries' leaders in this connection, he stressed.

He said that practical measures have been taken in connection with ECO and the Islamic Republic would make efforts to implement the organisation's joint agreements.

Agreements Reached With Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan

LD2104100793 Tehran IRNA in English 0826 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 21, IRNA—Minister of Islamic Culture and Guidance 'Ali Larijani said here Tuesday that Iran will cooperate with Republics of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan in renovation of historical monuments, exchange of university professors and students and promotion of tourism.

Speaking upon return from his two-nation tour, Larijani told IRNA that upgrading cooperation between Iranian scientific, cultural and film producing circles with those of the two republics and holding joint seminars on studying Islam and Orientalism, were among other issues agreed between Iran and the two countries.

Both Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan called for cooperation between the Iranian radio and TV, Islamic Republic of Iran's Broadcasting (IRIB), and news agency (IRNA) with those of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, he said.

Larijani added that Iran promised to provide some audio-visual facilities for Kyrgyzstan and establish a library for Kazakhstan.

The agreements, which made the structure of cultural cooperation between Iran and the two overwhelmingly Muslim-populated Central Asian countries, have been signed on the basis of historical common points among them, he said.

Envoy to Germany Views Relations With West

NC2004095993 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 7 Apr 93 p 3

[Interview with Iranian Ambassador to Germany Seyyed Hoseyn Musavian by unidentified RESALAT correspondent—date, place not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [RESALAT] How do you assess current Iranian-German relations?

[Musavian] Recently, our relations with the West have stagnated and Iranian-German relations are no exception. If we were to compare Germany to all the Western countries, I can say that we have the most extensive relations with Germany in several fields. Germany is our primary trading partner in the world. In the First Five-Year Plan, Germany placed the most financial credit at our disposal. Germany has 12 billion Deutsche marks worth of transactions with Iran, which is more than our collective dealings with all of Europe. In the past three years, the most high-level economic, political, cultural, and parliamentary delegations were exchanged with Germany. This year, the same pattern of cooperation will continue.

[RESALAT] What has caused this stagnation between Iran and Germany, and similarly with the West?

[Musavian] In the past few months the West has stepped up pressure against the Islamic Republic of Iran by increasing propaganda. The Human Rights Commission's resolution in Geneva against Iran, the European Parliament's resolution, the statement by the U.S. State Department, and the U.S. Senate's resolution on human rights, terrorism, arms dealing, and being a threat to regional security in the Persian Gulf and the Middle East are all conspicuous examples of the West's intentions to increase political pressure on Iran.

In my opinion, issues such as nuclear arms, submarines, human rights, and so on are not the basis of our differences with the West. If the issue of nuclear arms were a serious one for the West they could easily have taken some action against us under international conventions. Regarding weapons, they know very well that we have the smallest military budget in the region. I believe that the real source of our differences with the West is Israel and the Arab-Israel peace process.

Most Arab countries strive to mask their own internal problems by linking them to Iran. They tell the West that they do not give financial assistance to the Palestinians; only Iran does. They say that if Iran did not keep the banner of its opposition to the Arab- Israeli peace process flying, we would forge relations with Israel. We will create domestic problems but we are not answerable to the people.

In any case, they behave as if Iran were the sole obstacle to peace in the region, even though wars and popular opposition in the past like that in Egypt have proved that the Muslim masses have never succumbed to Israeli pressure and the governments of the Arab and Islamic countries are terrified of their people.

Another source of the West's fear of Iran is Iran's weapons procurement. Prior to the revolution, Iran's weapons came from the West. Today, Iran does not depend on the West, the PRC, or Russia for its defense needs. It follows a very alert policy by which it has liberated itself from the West's monopoly and raises an outcry over every step taken by Iran toward independence on obtaining weapons.

[RESALAT] How do you view U.S.-Iranian relations in light of the new U.S. Administration?

[Musavian] It is clear that the Jewish lobby that put up a united front before Bush is now backing Clinton. In my opinion, Clinton owes a major part of his victory to the support of the Jewish lobby, which is why he was beholden to the Zionists even before his victory. One can foresee the consequences of Clinton's promises to the Jewish lobby in the U.S. Middle East policies.

Clinton's one-sided support of Rabin during the latter's visit to the United States can be considered a manifestation of the agreements reached behind the scenes between Clinton and the Zionists before the elections. Therefore, this makes our task in dealing with the Americans even more difficult.

We should strive to quickly consolidate ties with the Islamic countries. Unilateral U.S. support of the Zionists has created a void in the Arab world. Iran should capitalize on the opportunity and forge strong relations with Islamic countries and should support the Arab world with an aggressive formulated program.

[RESALAT] What future do you foresee for the relations between Iran and the major European countries?

[Musavian] If Europe wishes its relations to remain linked qualitatively and quantitatively to U.S. relations with Iran, we should not be very optimistic about strengthening relations between the EC and Iran.

The Americans and the British have understood that strong relations between Iran and the EC can culminate in a new equilibrium in the Persian Gulf between Europe and the United States. This is the main reason for the United States, Israel, and Britain marring relations between Iran and the EC. Unfortunately, the Europeans misunderstand the issues. Relations between Iran and the EC are neither very warm nor very critical, but there is a chance of more constructive relations with Europe.

U.S. 'Political Inexperience' Examined

LD1804144093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1005 GMT 18 Apr 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Lookin over the available information, it seems almost certain that the ninth round of bilateral [Israeli-Palestinian] talks will not start in Washington the day after tomorrow and will be postponed for an indefinite period. Palestinian negotiators have officially asked America to defer the talks. The Israeli delegation also has postponed its visit to Washington. Meanwhile, foreign ministers of the Arab countries involved in the talks have suspended their session in Damascus and say that they will announce their decision regarding participation in the ninth round of talks tomorrow.

One of the main obstacles in the way of resuming the talks is the continuing deportation of more than 400 Palestinians to south Lebanon. The closing of the occupied territories and the brutal suppression of the Palestinian people have also added to the complexity of the situation. The new American Administration has so far utilized all its political prowess for the resumption of the talks on schedule, on Tuesday, the day after tomorrow. The Clinton administration reached an understanding with Israel on the return of the Palestinian deportees, with 100 of them to be returned immediately and the rest by the end of the current year. But the Palestinians and deportees do not have this so-called understanding and none of the deportees returned.

Anyway the postponement of the bilateral talks demonstrates the frustration of the new American administration in its Middle East policy. The Clinton administration entered the arena from the beginning by supporting Israel and tried to force the Arab sides to ignore the deportees issue and take part in the talks, so that they could be witness to America's total participation in the course of the talks [shahed-e mosharekat-e kamel-e America dar seyr-e goftoguha bashand].

The Clinton administration's political inexperience is not confined to the arena of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks. The American positions regarding Iran and Islamic aspirations as well as Bosnia- Herzegovina illustrate that political inexperience. It seems that the American Administration does not have a proper understanding of the realities. Despite Bill Clinton's electoral slogans, he has failed to to anything practical to resolve the Bosnia-Herzegovina crisis and world public opinion is holding the American administration responsible for recent Serbian advances.

The American administration, with its inept stance toward Iran, false emphasis on Iran's nuclear programs, and its open opposition against the wave of Islamic aspiration [moj-e eslamgara'i] in the region, has placed itself against the public opinion of world Muslims. From the Clinton administration's point of view, the best way to resolve the problem of this ideological and social phenomenon [padideh-ye fekri va ejtema'i] is to help allied regimes in killing Islamists. Washington even threatens Arab governments that the halting of the so-called peace talks means an increase in violence and fundamentalism in the region.

Unfortunately, some Arab governments have fallen into the trap and instead of standing by their people and rejecting any compromise in the Palestine problem, they fear that open opposition to the talks would mean the descent of America's wrath on them.

Nuclear Capability, Israeli Allegations Viewed

NC1804134093 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Apr 93 p 4

[Column by Dr. Jalil Roshandel and Dr. Sa'ideh Lotfian: "Horizontal Nuclear Proliferation: Is Iran a Nuclear-Capable State?"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted]

Iran's Nuclear Program

Recently, numerous reports have spoken of Iran's attachment to the nuclear weapon option. Fears of an Iranian bomb has risen again as a result of the intention of the government to complete the Bushehr reactor.

The Shah of Iran had an ambitious nuclear power program, and had declared that Iran must acquire nuclear capability. Triggered by the invasion of Kuwait and anti-Iranian attacks in the western press, it looked as if Iran was about to resume the Shah's ambitious nuclear plans by seeking outside assistance to complete the construction of the Bushehr reactor.

Bushehr reactor (lightwater/low enriched uranium, 1300 MWe) supplied by the Kraftwerk Union (West Germany), and was partially completed when the construction was suspended in 1979. This reactor had been damaged twice by Iraqi warplanes in November 1987 and July 1988. Since Iran is a member of the NPT [Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty] and has accepted comprehensive IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] safeguards, the IAEA has the authority to place the reactor under verification procedures once the plant is completed. The pre-revolutionary government of Iran had signed an agreement with Framatome (France) for a second power reactor (Darkhovin) in Ahvaz (light water/low-enriched uranium, 935 MWe). Its construction had just begun when the 1979 revolution toppled the monarchical regime. The country has a research reactor (light water/highly- enriched uranium, 5 MWt) in Tehran, which had been supplied by the U.S. in 1967.

Unlike many Third World states, it is argued that Iran does not need to invest in nuclear program as an alternative source of energy. Iran is one of the major oil-exporting states in the area. Even oil-producing nations need to invest in nuclear research. Oil will not last for ever. If Iran does not invest in the nuclear programs, it will fall too far behind the rest of the world. At present, Iran is not under great pressure to use non-oil energy sources, but plans to acquire the technological capability for taking advantage of electricity generating capacity of nuclear reactors.

Those who disagree that Iran, as an oil-producing nation, is in need of nuclear energy, neglect to consider power shortages and "the need for additional electric generating capacity for factories. Iran's objective is to have nuclear power plants for electricity and for desalination plant."

According to Martin [not further identified], "to create a fully self-sufficient nuclear industry requires considerable expense and technological capacity, and the good fortune to have access to raw materials." Iran is fortunate to be in possession of uranium reserves in Yazd province. In a recent official visit to the central province of Yazd the Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani "expressed pleasure at the discovery of uranium, adding that the three iron ore mines have a total of 800 million tons of proved reserves."

Iran has accepted the IAEA safeguards to be applied to all of its nuclear facilities. There is a belief that the Third World states, like Iran, could not be trusted to honor any agreement including the Non-Proliferation Treaty. This argument is based on the idea of unverifiability of the compliance with the terms of any arms control treaties. That Iran has never held any objectives for nuclear non-proliferation is at the heart of recent attacks against Iran.

Deutch, in a recent article in Foreign Affairs suggests that "willingness to sign the NPT is not a guarantee against proliferation". What is noteworthy is his assertion that Iran's signing of the NPT was "undoubtedly the price for receiving further nuclear assistance from (its) principal nuclear supplier", the United States. While, it is "possible that when Iraq and Libya signed, they had no nuclear ambitions."

The assertion (encouraged by Israel) that Iran is pursuing a military strategy based on acquiring nuclear capabilities for military use is officially and categorically rejected. Not surprisingly, the Israelis have been greatly concerned about the possibility of a second Middle Eastern country acquiring nuclear capability, and thus put an end to their regional nuclear monopoly. To protect their military superiority, the Israeli government has resorted to sabotage, assassinations, air strikes, and disinformation. "In April 1970 the naval yards at Seyne-sur Mer in France were attacked by commandos who destroyed metal casings about to be dispatched to the Iraqi French-built reactor.

In June 1980 Professor Yahya al-Mashad, an Egyptian scientist working on the Franco-Iraqi nuclear program was found beaten to death in a Paris hotel room. As with the Seyne-sur Mer attack, the Israeli secret service Mosad, was suspected." When all these tactics failed to block the construction of the Osiris reactor, Israeli jet aircrafts destroyed the Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981. There are now allegations made by Israel, claiming Iran plans to acquire nuclear weapons to be used against the Jewish state. Given available evidence, Israel is a nation whose nuclear activities deserves to be carefully monitored. Mordechai Vanunu, an Israeli nuclear technician, told the London SUNDAY TIMES in October 1986 that he had worked in a secret underground Israeli bomb factory for nine years. As a non-party to the NPT whose highly secret and unsafeguarded nuclear reactor poses a major threat to the security of other states in the region, Israel must become the focus of non- proliferation policy efforts.

There have even been report of the sale of nuclear warheads by Kazakhstan. Iran has "denied any intention to purchase or to build nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction." The Iranian view is that had Iranian nuclear policy been assessed for what it actually is, and Iranian support of the NPT (and acceptance of the NPT verification terms) would have been sufficient to demonstrate that Iran is not seeking nuclear military capability.

A U.S. government report addresses the present capabilities for detecting nuclear explosions, and concludes that "seismology provides a means to monitor underground nuclear explosions down to low yields, even when strenuous attempts are made to evade the monitoring system." Therefore, seismology is an important technique for the "verification (or the process of confirming compliance and detecting violations if they occur)."

Other means to verify compliance with the NPT includes a global network of seismic monitoring stations, satellite photoreconnaissance, and onsite inspection. It is noted that "a violator would not be likely to permit inspection of areas in which clandestine tests had been held, whatever the consequences of his refusal... The conditions under which on-site inspections would be allowed to take place-that is, whether they would be voluntary or mandatory-are relevant." In another word, "the voluntary acceptance of IAEA safeguards on all of a country's nuclear facilities and activities is yet another way to generate the needed confidence."

At the invitation of Iranian government, a delegation of the IAEA experts visited Iran's nuclear research center in 1991.

Gulf Countries Warned Against U.S. Designs

NC1904113593 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 7 Apr 93 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "An Invitation to the Neighbors to Understand the Realities"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Once again the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] and other allies of Washington are being manipulated by the latter to generate tension in the region, and another session of the GCC's foreign ministers has ended with the adoption of a hollow, repetitive, and divisive resolution.

What sort of stance should be adopted in view of such an illogical and repetitive resolution? Our Foreign Ministry issued a statement warning our southern neighbors to refrain from adopting a position based on unfounded claims. It stressed that the continuation of such an

attitude is not in the interests of the region and the Islamic world, and would also be detrimental to Persian Gulf stability.

This is a logical and fitting stance by our Foreign Ministry. We should, however, view the issue from another perspective and ask our southern neighbors to understand some immutable and tangible realities. Perhaps they do not know all the facts, or do not know that we do. So it would be worthwhile to help them realize and be assured that the root of all this tension lies in Washington and in the anxiety-ridden hearts of the Zionists.

It is quite understandable that the Zionists are furious because of the defeat of their efforts to bring the Arabs to their knees. It is obvious that the failure of the Arab-Israeli talks constitutes the failure of U.S. policy in the Middle East. All are well aware that the United States is apprehensive of the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy of exposing the truth and of the growing popularity of the Islamic Revolution among nations in the region and the Islamic world.

We are also aware of this, and if the Arab world were to utilize its potential it would also be able to understand this fact. The United States and the Zionists also know that they have been exposed before the world. All past and present events, all the futile propaganda of the Zionists, all the overt and covert machinations against Islam and the Islamic Revolution, especially against the Islamic Republic of Iran, can be understood and it is from this vantage point that this propaganda assumes meaning.

Thus, the propaganda storm against the Islamic Republic of Iran in Egypt, Algeria, occupied Palestine, the United States, and wherever the Zionists wield influence, is not unexpected. The rage of the Zionists and their agents stems from the fact that their role has been laid bare in such a way that they cannot covert it up again. It is precisely for this reason that the continuation of propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran's system will culminate in nothing but greater humiliation for the Zionists and their agents.

Nowadays, the propaganda by the powers of world arrogance against the Islamic Republic of Iran is based on the following four tenets:

1. The Islamic Republic of Iran is a violator of laws and a supporter of terrorism.

2. The Islamic Republic of Iran opposes peace and security in the region and is considered a danger for the region and even for the world.

3. By increasing its military expenditure, the Islamic Republic of Iran is casting a covetous eye on all countries.

4. The Islamic Republic of Iran has become isolated.

If the first spark of this denigrating propaganda had not been ignited in Israel and the United States, perhaps some would have been confused about the source of such allegations, but today it is completely clear that international Zionism and the humiliated United States are behind this derogatory propaganda. They wish to attain their unholy objectives and exert propagandistic pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, they have realized with much bitterness that no one heeds such repetitive and worthless allegations and nations have become quite accustomed to these utterances.

Let Mubarak and the Cairo regime continue their constant hue and cry against the Islamic Revolution, and their anger that Islamic Iran refuses to be an ally of the Cairo regime, which signed the Camp David Accord. Let the coupist Algerian regime accuse Iran of stirring up the combatant people of Algeria. Let Washington label the Islamic Republic of Iran a supporter of terrorism. At least the nations, with their revolutionary acumen, realize the truth and feel that this venomous propaganda stems from the reactive posture of the enemies of Islam and humanity, who are greatly perturbed because of the defeat of the designs of the arrogant powers in the region. This is why they have laid all the blame on the Islamic Revolution and on the Islamic movments of the world.

It is a source of great pride that we will not allow the occupationist Israeli regime to be officially recognized in the region. It is a great honor that we will not permit the powers of arrogance to capitalize on the weakness and degradation of the Arabs today or to implement their domineering plans in the region.

We invite our southern neighbors and all Arabs to make efforts to understand the truth. If the power of Islam had not prevailed, Israel would certainly have been able to impose its objectives on the Arabs by way of its compromising talks. If the strength of Islam and the opposition of the movements of the Islamic world—epecially in Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, occupied Palestine, Lebanon, and all other Islamic homelands—had not existed, today the enemy would have capitalized on this degradation and on the abjectness of the Arabs and would have brought them to their knees.

The United States, Israel, and the Arab countries know full well that the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution have never before enjoyed such popularity, charisma, and authority among the Arab people. In our valiant, noble, and wrathful struggle, we have the hearts of hundreds of millions of Muslims on our side. Not only are we not isolated, our enemies, and those who have been contemptibly dragged into enmity against us, have never—at any time in history—been so isolated, agitated, ostracized, and on the path of decline.

Islam is the force to reckon with in the future, both in the region and in the Islamic world. The Islamic world is on the path to power, solidarity, and unity of action, and tomorrow the banner of Islam will be raised over all Islamic lands. This is the goal toward which nations that are enamored of honor, thirsting for prestige, and the foes of Israel are enthusiastically counting the minutes.

There are also those who are afraid of facing up to this enormous reality. In any case, they will never be able to obstruct the will of the Muslim nations. All resources will have to be mustered to promote understanding of this reality.

Judiciary Head Yazdi Holds News Conference

LD2004171893 Tehran IRNA in English 0842 GMT 20 Apr 93

Tehran, April 20, IRNA—Judiciary head Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi said here Tuesday that certain countries unable to cope with their internal problems accuse Iran of exporting revolution and interfering in their internal affairs. These allegations are 100 percent wrong, he said. Speaking at a news conference attended by domestic and foreign reporters, he said that export of revolution means export of the principal message of the revolution and its values. He assured that the message of the Islamic revolution is in conformity with human nature.

The ayatollah said that the world has not yet acknowledged the realities of the Islamic revolution nor does it intend to do so and its judgement is based on its own measures which is a "grave mistake." He called on all those involved in judiciary affairs the world over to draw a line between judiciary and legal affairs and political issues and not let the judiciary and legal spheres come under the influence of the powers and governments. Ayatollah Yazdi further said there was no difference between the authorities, the ordinary people or an official committing a crime when they have to face the law.

Asked to comment on the recent changes in the judiciary, the ayatollah said the changes have taken place in accordance with law and with approval of the leader. Of course, he added, it is the natural right of the judiciary head to make any necessary change. He further specified that the recent changes were not a matter of dismissal but rather promotion.

On cultural and press offences, he said that everything is carried out within the domain of the authorities of the judiciary power. As for 'FARAD' magazine, he said the judiciary had acted according to the press law and "I don't let anybody in the judiciary to act contrary to the law." The publication of the magazine was banned last year after it printed a cartoon which was said to have mocked the late leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni and its director was arrested.

Yazdi also categorically denied that Jalaloddin Farsi, a former Majles deputy, arrested on murder charges, had been set free. He was set free on bail pending trial, he said.

Asked to comment on criminal files of foreign nationals in Iran, Ayatollah Yazdi said the files of many of these people are under investigation awaiting final judgement. "It is likely that few of them, due to committing heavy crimes, would be condemned to death sentences or receive lighter sentences which all depend on the final votes of the Supreme Court. Of course, the rulings of courts, before being implemented, will be announced to the relatives and the home country of the convicts through the Foreign Ministry. And it is likely that certain convicts be pardoned which is possible only if the leader issues the order,' Ayatollah Yazdi said. He made it clear that law is the same for all and there is no exception.

Asked by the "NEW YORK TIMES" correspondent to comment on U.N. chief's special rapporteur Reynaldo Galindo Pohl's report on alleged violations of human rights in Iran and whether the report would not tarnish the reputation of the Islamic Republic in international arena. [as received]

"The human rights issue and its violation is always exploited as a political instrument and pressure tool to materialize certain goals of the powers dominating international bodies," he said at the press conference.

The ayatollah explained that Galindo Pohl visited different parts of Iran and compiled reports on conditions of Iranian prisons and courts which were not free from errors. However, he added, "in later stages, his report was influenced by (certain) powers and for the same reason, we announced that henceafter anybody to be dispatched to Iran to prepare report on human right must be a 'neutral person free from the influence of powers."

Asked whether the Islamic revolutionary courts would continue to exist, he explained that they were formed on the basis of the philosophy of the revolution with an aim of protecting revolution against the counterrevolutionaries. The ayatollah added that the combat against counterrevolutionaries has almost ended and that the Expediency [Discernment] Council has delegated the courts with new obligations like campaign against drug dealers.

He noted that there are no difference between them and ordinary courts in matter of dealing with crimes and that the only difference lies in the nature of their duties. In other words, he continued, the job has been divided between them in order to facilitate it and in future the Islamic revolutionary courts will operate only in provinces.

IRNA correspondent asked whether the death edict on apostate Salman Rushdie which was issued by the late leader of the Islamic revolution Imam Khomeyni has been nullified in terms of religious jurisprudence and whether the order must be renewed by another jurisprudent who is alive. "There is not such a thing at all and the edict remains valid and is accepted by all Muslims," he underlined.

On conditions for return home of Iranian citizens residing abroad, the judiciary chief said that the conditions are the same that were announced before and that all those willing to come back to their country can do so if they have no problem.

Questioned on formation of an international neutral court to deal with crimes committed by the world countries, he said that the United Nations and its Security Council have scored certain successes in preserving the world security and preventing wars.

But, he added, due to increasing influence wielded by the U.S., the west and their veto rights, they lack the required competence to provide the world security.

"In our opinion, the today's world needs an impartial court in which independent and learned lawyers believing in any religion or from any country can deal with the cases of countries violating the rights of other nations and can punish the violators." He noted that once established such a court would not deal with the crimes committed by citizens but rather deals with international crimes.

Asked why Iran did not publish the statistics on the number of executions in the country, Yazdi said that the figure has sharply dropped and that death sentence is now passed only on drug traffickers and murderers.

"There is not even a single prisoner in Iran kept for his thoughts and beliefs. Of course there are people now serving prison terms on charges of spying and passing the country's sensitive information to enemies," Ayatollah Yazdi said. Drug traffickers and addicts constitute more than half of the total prisoners in Iran, he said. Death penalty has been demanded for 125 major drug smugglers but the Supreme Court and other judicial circles want the sentence to be commuted to life imprisonment for 100 of them, Yazdi said. He also predicted that the ruling might be changed for the remaining convicts.

Yazdi saying that capital punishment is carried out in at least 135 countri across the world noted that death verdict in Iran is solely applied to major drug traffickers and those found guilty of premeditated murder. He also categorically refuted allegations made by the enemies of the Islamic revolution that political prisoners were executed in Iran in the guise of drug traffickers.

The number of prisoners linked to couterrevolutionary grouplets including the outlawed Mujahideen Khalq Organization (MKO), better known as munafiqeen (hypocrites), is fewer than the number of fingers, he said, adding the figure for a country of 58 million people is not high at all.

The judiciary chief said the committee on prevention of torture in France has released reports on the conditions of prisoners in that country which are very frustrating when compared with status of prisoners in Iran.

In response to a question about reasons for the arrest by Iran of four Kuwaiti fishermen, Yazdi said "The four men had violated territorial waters of the Islamic Republic." "It is a natural right of every country to detain those violating its borders and inquire aoout the violation, and the Islamic Republic in compliance with its legal rights detained and interrogated the men." Yazdi explained that the four Kuwaitis were later released after being given necessary warnings. Those devices not used in fishing might have been taken away from them, he added.

The policy of the Islamic Republic is based on good-neighborly relations with its Arab neighbors and that Iran expects those countries to adopt a similar policy and respect the rights of others, the judiciary head said.

Opposition on Regime's 'Terrorist Practices'

NC1704080093 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Ayatollah Jalal Jandi, "a prominent Iranian opposition leader and cleric," in Paris, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Jandi] Thank you.

[Abu-al-Majd] How do you describe the Iranian regime's terrorist practices and unjustified acts of revenge against Muslim peoples and countries? How do they echo in Western media and political circles?

[Jandi] By common consent, the regime of the mullahs in Tehran is the sponsor and promoter of terrorism in Islamic countries in the region. Everybody is angry with ugly practices. For a long time, we have told our brothers in the Islamic world that they should be aware of the Iranian regime's designs. Regrettably, that which we have warned about has indeed materialized.

[Abu-al-Majd] Many innocent Muslims and non-Muslims fall victim to these terrorist operations which are financed and sometimes carried out by the Iranian regime. What can you do, as men of religion, to stop these practices and expose the regime's actions to the world?

[Jandi] As I said, we knew of the regime's practices a long time ago. Ten years ago, we began resistance to overthrow the regime and establish a free Iran with peaceful relations with Muslim brothers and neighbors. We established the National Liberation Army under the command of Mas'ud Rajavi. Before that, we set up the National Resistance Council. Currently, the Council consists of 150 members, half of them women—mojahedin or others. We also began diplomatic activity throughout the world to gain recognition of our movement as the only legitimate alternative to the regime. We seek a free life for our country and people.

[Abu-al-Majd] The Iranian regime's practices are not confined to the outside world. The evil practices are also harming Muslim Iranian citizens themselves. What do you think?

[Jandi] Yes, this is a bad situation. We in Mojahedin-e Khalq have suffered more than 100,000 martyrs in the mullahs' prisons and cells. Many of them were women.

There are hundreds of thousands of detainees in the mullahs' oppressive prisons—this is only as far as the resistance is concerned. However, I stress here that this oppression has not affected our resistance. Thank God, our activity is constantly escalating and succeeding. Regarding the people in general, the mullahs, as you know, pushed our nation into a dark war for about eight years. More than a million Iranians were killed. They left us a country in the following shape: As a result of economic collapse, 70 percent of the Iranian people are living below the poverty line; that is, their daily income is less than one dollar each. Some 637 percent [figure as heard] of the nation's wealth is possessed by 230 families, most of them are mullahs and their relatives. The regime has announced in its newspapers that loans from local banks amount to 1,500 billion tumans [one tuman equals 10 Iranian rials]. Short-term foreign debt exceeds $30 billion. During this Iranian year, which began a month ago, the regime must repay more than $19 billion, although Iran's national revenues do not exceed $15 billion.

[Abu-al-Majd] During his recent tour, President Mubarak highlighted the Iranian regime's role in terrorism against Islamic and other nations. How do you view the importance of this statement by the president coming at this time, when many people believe that the world, especially the West, must know true Islam?

[Jandi] I am aware of President Mubarak's assertions. I support what he said, and I emphasize that what President Mubarak said—despite its frankness—shows only a small part of the picture. We all need to know the details of what is happening in Iran and what the mullahs are doing to interfere in the Arab and Islamic world in general, and in the sensitive area of Middle East and Egypt in particular.

[Abu-al-Majd] Since we are talking about the mullahs' terrorist practices against Arab, Islamic, and other nations, what is your next move, in cooperation with the peaceloving forces in the region, to counter these practices?

[Jandi] As we have done before, we are now working seriously to explain the situation to all our brothers. We call on them to deal with us and be sure that the ugly situation ends only when the regime is overthrown. This can be achieved only by the National Liberation Army. Although there are hundreds of popular demonstrations throughout Iran, the leadership of the people can only be assumed by this movement, its National Council, and its Liberation Army. I repeat that all forces of peace and freedom in the region, especially in our Islamic world, need to know this fact and deal with it seriously.

[Abu-al-Majd] Thank you.

[Jandi] Thank you. Peace be upon you.

Rebel Radio Reports Iranian Shelling 19 Apr

NC2104055093 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Dear listeners, in a statement dated 14 April, the Political Bureau of the Democratic Party of Kordestan of Iran [DPK] said that the clerical regime is preparing a new aggression against Iraqi Kurdistan and intends to attack Iranian opposition forces in Iranian-Iraqi border areas.

We inform you that on Monday 19 April the first signs of this aggression and offensive were seen. Islamic Republic forces shelled DPK positions with heavy artillery at 1100 and 1730 [0630 and 1300 GMT]. Fortunately, there were no deaths.

Announcing that the first phase of this chain of treason by the Islamic Republic has started, we again call on the people in Kordestan and throughout Iran, on the masses in Iraqi Kurdistan, and on all international forums to strive in any way they can to prevent the Iranian regime from continuing its crime and to ensure that this area does not become the scene of chaos again.

We again repeat that the DPK peshmerga are ready to thwart any military attack and we are confident that the other Iranian opposition forces and the masses in Kordestan will not let the DPK be alone in this sacred defense.

Halt Plan for Occupation of Iraqi Kurdistan Urged

NC2104061493 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Compatriots: The clerical regime's officials, who have destroyed our country during 14 years of rule, who cannot solve the various economic, political, and social problems, whose so-called reconstruction program has been defeated, and who are under global and international pressure, are again trying to hatch another plot against us and trying to intensify their pressure on and suppression of the Kordestan movement.

The shortsighted leaders ruling the country have never given up their expansionist policy and their dream of building an Islamic empire. They covet the territory of Iraqi Kurdistan and, to hide their political defeats, they want to seize the opportunity and create a new crisis.

The Iranian regime is the enemy of freedom and democracy and, if possible, it will not allow freedom and democracy to expand anywhere. Now that Iraqi Kurdistan has become a hearth for fulfilling freedom and democracy and solving the Kurdish people's problem, the Islamic Republic is again plotting and intends to occupy part of Iraqi Kurdistan and quench its thirst for expansionism. To achieve this end, it is willing to sacrifice the lives of tens of thousands of people and to waste the country's wealth.

Let us act before the fire of another war devours our country. Let us stand up against the regime's wretched and sinister plot. Resort to any means possible to prevent the regime from hatching such a treacherous and inhuman plot. Inform your children among the ranks of the regime's armed forces so that they will not be sacrificed for the policies of a bunch of reactionary and shortsighted clergymen.

If today you display your determination, tomorrow you will not cry and mourn over the graves of your children. The Islamic Republic is weak and helpless before your determination and faith.

Pakistan

Banks Suspend Loans for Self-Employment Plan

BK2004112093 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 20 Apr 93 pp 1, 5

[Text] Multan, April 19—Scheduled banks have suspended the issuance of business loans for purchase of transport, tractors under prime minister's self-employment scheme with immediate effect. Loan seekers today returned disappointed when banks informed them that federal caretaker governmet had asked the banks to stop the sanctioning of more loans. However, already advanced loans would be recovered according to the terms and conditions laid in the agreement. On the other hand, federal and provincial governments have asked the nation-building departments to stop work on the development schemes under Tameer-Iwatan programme and freeze the development fund allocated to MNAS [members of National Assembly] and MPAS [members of provincial assemblies].

Nawaz Sharif Defends Economic Record

BK2004140493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1345 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Islamabad, April 20 (AFP)—Claiming he had the support of all Pakistanis, ousted prime minister Nawaz Sharif said Tuesday that President Ghulam Ishaq Khan had dismissed him for "selfish motives" to the detriment of the national interest.

Sharif defended at a press conference his 29-month-old government's economic record, saying it had produced the fastest growing economy in South Asia before it was sacked by Ishaq Khan on Sunday.

"Ghulam Ishaq Khan is playing with the destiny of the nation ... he's acted out of purely selfish motives," said Sharif, adding that he "saw no reason why the National Assembly had to be dissolved."

"The action of the president has been resented by everybody in the country, and condemned by all sectors," he said. "There's a complete strike in Lahore and other parts of the country."

Ishaq Khan's decision to dismiss the National Assembly came at the height of a three-month struggle between him and Sharif over their different views in the power of the two offices, and not for any philosophical differences.

Sharif, who plans to mobilise the people, said he would go on a train ride to Lahore on Wednesday stopping along the way to address crowds.

The dismissal of his government differed from the dismissal of the former prime minister Benazir Bhutto's government in 1990, Sharif said, because her government was bogged down by constitutional questions.

Ishaq Khan "has damaged the national interest. The economy was going up... my government had done extremely well."

"The battle has started," he said in a reference to moves by the parliamentary speaker Gauhar Ayub Khan to bring Ishaq Khan to court to challenge the dismissal.

Minister Outlines Government Economic Policy

BK2004144893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Portfolios of the two federal ministers have been announced. Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari will be the minister for finance and economic affairs, while Mr. Hamid Nasir Chatha has been allocated communications, planning, and development.

The federal minister for finance and economic affairs, Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, has said the caretaker government will carry all its economic policies in the best national interest. In an interview with PTV representative Khalida Mazhar he outlined the financial and economic policies of the government.

[Begin Leghari recording] We feel that Pakistan must honor its commitments and we must exercise restraint, we must control our expenditures, and we must create an environment where real foreign investment inflows can be obtained. We would also like to give an assurance to investors in Pakistan, both local and foreign, that their investments in Pakistan are absolutely safe. We would like to enhance the flow of foreign capital into Pakistan. Right now, we are engaged in an in-depth analysis into the condition of the economy, into the condition of the revenues, the expenditures, the budgetary position, and I am very certain that, Insha'allah [God willing], in the very near future, this government will be able to come out with a detailed policy statement on the economy. [end recording]

Former National Assembly Members Meet Premier

BK2004153493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] A group of former MNA's [members of National Assembly] from Punjab called on the caretaker prime minister, Mir Balakh Sher Mazari, at the prime minister's

secretariat in Islamabad today. Syed Nusrat Ali Shah, Nawabzada Mazhar Ali Khan, Sardar Bahram Khan, Sardar Mohammad Jahangir Khan, and Malik Niaz Ahmad Jhakkar remained with the prime minister for some time and discussed the latest situation prevailing in the country. They congratulated the prime minister and expressed their full support and cooperation to him. They also expressed the confidence that the constitutional democratic process in the country will continue.

Mazari Briefs Media on Domestic, Foreign Issues

BK2004163693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Caretaker Prime Minister Mir Balakh Sher Mazari has said his government's objectives are to hold free and fair elections, to heal the wounds inflicted on the country's politics by the confrontational politics of the past, to restore normal legal methods and processes, discharge duties with honesty, and to restore a clean government. He stated this during a meeting with senior journalists at the Prime Minister's Secretariat in Islamabad this evening. He announced an immediate lifting of the ban on recruitment to government posts. He said elections will be held according to the Constitution on 14 July. He declared that the major political parties in the country are represented in his caretaker government of national unity, which will pave the way for absolute fairness in elections. He said the national government is committed to restoring people's confidence in the constitutional running of the state. He said he is committed to strict legality, constitutionality, and honesty; and campaigns of political victimization will not be launched against anyone. Due process of law will take place in all matters. He said those who have broken the law and used their office for protection against prosecution will face due process.

Mir Balakh Sher Mazari said he has assumed the office to heal the wounds. The Pakistani people have heaved a sigh of relief at the end of confrontation. He said the irresponsibility, deceit, and corruption of the previous government had brought the nation to the brink of disaster.

Answering questions, the caretaker prime minister said elections will not be postponed because he does not see any difficulty in holding elections as scheduled. He said if anybody—be it himself, members of his family, or a member of the cabinet—indulges in ulawful activities, he will be dealt with with an iron hand. He said he will not allow any lawlessness and will deal with it firmly. He believes in complete freedom of the media, including radio and television.

Answering another question, Mir Balakh Sher Mazari said his government will try to have the Afghan accord implemented. As for the policy on Kashmir, there has been no change in Pakistan's stand on this issue. Pakistan is not complete without Kashmir, he added.

The prime minister said he will expand his cabinet very soon.

Earlier, talking to foreign correspondents, the caretaker prime minister said no vindictive action will be taken against anyone and all parties, groups, and individuals will be fully free to carry on their political activities and participate in upcoming elections without any exceptions.

About the allegations of corruption against the former prime minister, Mazari said the government will take action according to law and only on the basis of evidence. If any evidence is found against anyone, legal action will definitely be taken. He described his government as a government of national consensus and unity and said it will be expanded soon. The president has taken action according to the Constitution and the people have heaved a sigh of relief at the dismissal of a government whose corruption and wrongdoings had brought the nation to the brink of disaster. He said the Nawaz Sharif government was not fulfilling the wishes and aspirations of the people and had no sense at all of democratic values, accountability, or collective responsibility.

Concerning allegations of Pakistan's involvement in terrorism, Mir Balakh Sher Mazari said he is not aware of the reasons for such accusations. He, on his part, will try to dispel this impression as soon as possible.

The caretaker prime minister described as erroneous Indian allegations about Pakistan's support for terrorism in Kashmir and said Pakistan is extending moral, political, and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people in their just struggle, and this support will continue in the future as well.

Touching on India's request for the arrest of the alleged terrorists involved in the Bombay bomb blasts, the caretaker prime minister said his government will extend every possible cooperation in this regard. Concerning Pakistan's ties with India, he desires good relations with all countries. There are some outstanding issues between India and Pakistan which ought to be resolved to pave the way for a good relationship between the two countries.

Minister: Government of National Unity for All

BK2004164293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] Hamid Nasir Chatha, the federal minister for communications, planning, and development, has said that the process of distribution of land among the landless peasants of Sindh will continue. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad this evening, he emphatically denied reports that the distribution of land among the peasants has been stopped.

Answering questions, he said a Nawaz Sharif group and other parties' representatives will be welcome in the government of national unity.

Minister Sees No 'Big Change' in Transportation

BK2104012893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0100 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Hamid Nasir Chatha, the federal minister for communications, planning and development, has said that there is no possbility of any big change in the transport or other schemes in the next three months. Talking to APP after the issuance of notification of his departments, he said he needs some time to assess with various schemes and programs of the ministry and get acquainted with them. About injustice and acts of vendetta against some officials and technocrats by the Nawaz Sharif government, he said we will end all wrong steps of the past.

Finance Minister: Free Economy Concept To Continue

BK2104025493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, Federal Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs, has said that the free market-oriented concept will continue to apply and the privatization policy will be carried forward with more transparency. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad last night, he said the private foreign investment is very essential for the promotion of economy and the caretaker government will take all steps for encouraging foreign investment. He said there will be no restrictions on the flow of foreign capital, all contracts and contractual obligations will be honored, indiscipline in economy and expenditure will be controlled and efforts will made to check fiscal deficit and increase in prices of commodities.

High Court Admits Petition Against President

BK2104084293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0824 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Islamabad, April 21 (AFP)—A Pakistan high court Wednesday admitted a petition challenging President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's dissolution of the National Assembly, the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) said.

The petition was filed by Gauhar Ayub Khan, speaker of the defunct assembly.

A full bench comprising five judges of the Lahore High Court, admitting the petition for regular hearing, issued notices to the Federation of Pakistan for its next hearing on May 3, APP said.

The petition seeks suspension of Sunday's presidential proclamation, sacking the 29-month old government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and dissolution of the lower house.

Ayub Khan has contended that the president's order was "malafide, arbitrary and without any lawfull authority." He has asked the court's permission to convene the National Assembly session.

The petitioner has named Ishaq Khan as respondent in the case.

However, the law exempts appearance of the head of state in the court.

Declining to immediately suspend the president's order, the court, headed by Chief Justice Mehbub Ahmed, directed Attorney General of Pakistan Aziz Munshi, who was present in the court along with the ousted speaker, to file a written reply to the petition within a week, the agency said.

Sharif Calls For Agitation Against President

BK2104094393 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 21 Apr 93 pp 1, 12

[Text] Islamabad, April 20—Former Prime Minister and newly elected president of Pakistan Muslim League, Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, has given a call to launch agitation against President Ghulam Ishaq Khan [GIK] here on Tuesday.

Addressing a press conference this evening before his departure for Lahore by train on Wednesday the deposed Prime Minister called on the nation to launch a mass movement against the president who, he claimed, was working against the national interest for his personal power. He said the people should get up and president who has put the country at stake for his personal gains. [sentence as published]

The former Prime Minister said President GIK had bought the country to an edge of political and economic disaster.

Elaborating in an emotionally charged voice the former Premier said the stock market had crashed and the business was at a stand still. He said what took him two and a half years to build was destroyed in two and a half days. He said the confidence of investors, which was built with hard labour, has been shattered.

Nawaz Sharif said it had done the country an irreparable loss beyond the imagination. Describing the economic situation of the country extremely bad he said the flight of capital had set in motion. Rebuilding this confidence would take ages now, he said.

The deposed leader said the country was facing the worst ever political instability. There was no popularly elected government in the saddle but a few handpicked politicians had been installed to run the show. He said in the provinces under the directives from the President House subversion of the assemblies and worst kind of horse-trading had started, and this was particularly true in case of Punjab, he said.

Nawaz Sharif strongly refuted allegations leveled against him. He said these allegations were ridiculous in the light

of President's earlier pronouncements declaring his government working under the constitution and enjoying the majority of the people.

He reiterated his stance that his Assembly was dissolved unconstitutionally saying that despite all horse-trading the President could not win over the majority against him in the Assembly. He said to counter this, they had summoned the Assembly to prove their majority but he dissolved it before it could meet. This he said was a cowardly act.

Nawaz Sharif triumphantly said that he had no regrets whatsoever over the dismissal of his governments as it has been done for opposing the presidential powers under the 8th Amendment. He said it was his pledge to the nation that he would work for undoing this undemocratic amendment from the constitution and restore to the parliament and prime minister their legitimate powers. He questioned what were the powers of a prime minister under this constitution which even does not allow him to put his chief ministers right who speak against his government.

Mian Nawaz Sharif said he was shocked at the attitude of Benazir Bhutto who sacrificed principles and joined hands with the President. He said she had forgotten the stand which she propagated for the past two and a half years and compromised on principles.

Nawaz Sharif said a process of destablisation had been set in all the provinces. He said ANP [Awami National Party] had left the government in North Western Frontier Province, and the situation in Sindh and Balochistan was not clear. He questioned what kind of service to the nation was being rendered by the President. He said he would fight this dissolution in the court of law and the court of the people.

To a question whether he would contest elections as he was going to court against the dismissal, he said political people were always ready for elections any time. He said he was ready for elections yesterday, was ready today and would be ready for it anytime in future. He said "our track record was clear and we feel no hesitation for contempt in elections".

Mian Nawaz Sharif said he would bring constitutional reforms if he came to power. He said President GIK wanted a dummy prime minister whom he could control with a remote control.

Sharif: President 'Conspiring' Against Army

BK2104094993 Karachi DAWN in English 21 Apr 93 pp 1, 19

[Text] Islamabad, April 20—Deposed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif here on Tuesday accused President Ghulam Ishaq Khan of conspiring against the armed forces by trying to pit them against the politicians.

"The President is playing 'a dirty game' to have direct clash between the army and the politicians," he alleged. Speaking at a news conference former Prime Minister denied that he developed differences with the President over the appointment of New Chief of the Army Staff.

"I do not know why Ishaq Khan has lied and why he is trying to drag the army in the politics," Nawaz Sharif alleged. He pointed out that after the dissolution of National Assembly efforts were being made to destabilise the provincial governments specially that of Punjab.

He said earlier the President had tried to create differences with his younger brother Shahbaz Sharif and now he was further creating rift between various political groups in Punjab.

Nawaz Sharif claimed that the country has plunged into total chaos and uncertainty after the dissolution of the National Assembly and the dismissal of his government. There was a crash on stock exchange; investment has stopped and the country has virtually reached to a standstill position after the removal of his government."

He said the President was currently busy in horse-trading and trying to purchase his men both at the Centre and in the province of Punjab. Nawaz Sharif said the delay in the dissolution of the provincial assemblies is being witnessed just because the fact that "they are unable so far to break my people."

The deposed Prime Minister was of the view that caretaker government in the centre was not functioning at all and "the President is failing in getting people to be inducted in this so- called new arrangement."

"President is ruling the country and he has no respect and love for institutions and I urge the nation to start an agitation against the greedy Ishaq Khan because he does not deserve pardon or mercy," he charged.

The former premier said he really did not know why his government was overthrown by the President specially when I curbed my ego only in the national interest and stopped talking about the 8th Amendment and nominated him for next presidential election." [no opening quotation mark as published]

Asked whether he was prepared for accountability and ready to go to jail, Nawaz Sharif said he would very much welcome this process of accountability provided Ishaq Khan also initiate this process against his people, relatives and those who served late Jam Sadiq Ali. He said he has not forgotten the corruption done by Frontier and Balochistan govenrments with the connivance of the President.

"I cannot be terrified by such things that they would put me behind the bar. They must know that I have gone beyond these things and prepared to face even death," he claimed.

Moreover, he said what happened to the accountability and references started against Ms. Benazir Bhutto and her colleagues. "There was no substance in the references against Ms Bhutto and others and that was why they

were thrown back on his (President) face." This is quite interesting to note that for the first time former premier openly talked about the referenes against Ms. Bhutto and said that they have no substance and that they were politically motivated.

However he also accused Ms Benazir of changing her position and ultimately having sat with a person whom she used to strongly criticise. "Both the President and Ms Bhutto have compromised their positions and as such cannot escape public wrath. I am really shocked over the U-turn taken by Ms. Bhutto," he added.

He also claimed that his stand on 8th Amendment was vindicated after Ms. Bhutto, who considers herself the champion of democracy, did not extend him the support to annul this menace. But he vowed to remove 8th Amendment after coming into power again. "The first thing we would do is after coming to power, to get rid of this notorious amendment so that in future people should not fall prey to it."

Answering a question he said he has come to know that the caretaker government has decided to pursue his economic policies. But there is no use now because they have brought unprecedented harm to the economy by illegally and unconstitutionally removing my government." [no open quotation mark as published]

He called upon the politicians to work for having the parliamentary system in the country in order to strengthen democracy and get rid of those who were ruling by dividing them in various groups.

To a question Nawaz Sharif challenged the President to prove any single violation that he made in any matter. He told a reporter that he and his party was fully prepared for the general election to be held on July 14.

Responding to another question Nawaz Sharif said 90 percent people in Punjab were supporting him but the legislators were being purchased while offering them bribe and various other incentives. He said the President who praised his government's performance in Parliament's December 22 session was now trying to find weaknesses in him just for his own vested interest.

Mazari Warns Minister on Statement on Terrorism

BK2104100693 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 21 Apr 93 pp 1, 8

[Text] Islamabad—Stern action would be taken against former Petroleum Minister Chaudhary Nisar Ali Khan for his alleged statement in Washington admitting to "ISI's [Inter Services Intelligence] support for terrorists in Kashmir," said Caretaker Prime Minister [PM] Mir Balakh Sher Mazari here Tuesday.

"We have no such information but will take stern action if found that Nisar really had uttered such things," Mazari said in reply to question put by an American journalist at a luncheon reception at the PM Secretariat. The journalist claimed that Nisar had admitted to ISI's support for Kashmiri (freedom) fighters.

So far Pakistan Government Mazari said, had not received the minutes of Nisar-US officials parley and if proved "we will definitely take action against those who issued such irresponsible statements.

Meanwhile, Jamsheed Burki, interior secretary said the government was in close contact with the US administration and "we have no reason to feel that US is not satisfied with the measures Pakistan has taken to check with activities of illegal immigrants."

Deposed Prime Minister To Launch Campaign From Karachi

BK2104101593 Karachi DAWN in English 21 Apr 93 p 18

[Text] Islamabad, April 20—The former prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, will launch mass contact campaign from Karachi after visiting Mazar of the Quaid-i-Awan [mausoleum of Muhammad Ali Jinnah] on Saturday.

The decision was made on a request made by a delegation of Jamiat Ulema-i-Pakistan (JUP) Niazi group, which called on him here at the residence of former interior minister Chaudhary Shujat Hussain on Tuesday.

The delegation was led by Secretary General JUP, Sindh, Hafiz Muhammad Taqi and comprised Atif Hussain Alvi, Alhaj Mohammad Rafi and Maulana Mohammad Yaqub Qadri.

The delegation complained deviation from the promise of ensuring supremacy of Shariat [Islamic law], lack of communication with the allied parties and referred to the differences with the former Prime Minister on a number of steps taken by him in the past.

The delegation, however, asking him to review his attitude announced that the JUP despite various differences, would cooperate with him in this hour of trial for the "sake of democracy."

The delegation terming Mr Nawaz Sharif as symbol of national solidarity offered him to contest election from Orangi Town, Karachi.

The delegation also held separate meetings with Chaudhary Shujat Hussain, Syed Ghaus Ali Shah, Malik Mohammad Naim, Ghulam Ahmad Billour, Ghulam Dastagir Khan, Mian Abdul Sattar Lalika, Elahi Bux Sumroo, Raja Nadir Parwez, Hamza, Sardar Muhammad Yousaf, Javed Hashemi and Senators Syed Barkat Ahmad and Mazar Ali.

The delegation also attended the meeting of the Central Executive Committee of the JUP held here with former minister for religious affairs Maulana Abdul Sattar Khan Niazi in the chair.

Thousands Throng Station

BK2104104893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1021 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] Rawalpindi, Pakistan, April 21 (AFP)—Thousands of people thronged the railway station here Wednesday as deposed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif embarked on a train journey to mobilize support in populous Punjab province.

More than 5,000 people packed the platforms at the Rawalpindi railway station to see off Sharif whose motorcade made up of dozens of vehicles arrived here from Islamabad around midday.

Witnesses said shops were closed in some areas in response to a business leaders' strike call to protest the ouster of a reformist government, witnesses said.

Sharif selected old sections of the city for his procession which zig-zagged through narrow lanes of the middle and lower-middle class localities of Rawalpindi.

Supporters carrying banners and posters at points along the 20- kilometer (12 mile) route greeted Sharif and denounced President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's [as received] for his abrupt dismissal of the prime minister and dissolution of the National Assembly late Sunday.

The train trip is his first foray out of Islamabad since the dismissal of his 29-month old government.

The president's sacking of Sharif was the culmination of a three- month-long tussle between the two men which erupted when Sharif moved to trim the president's sweeping powers granted under the country's Constitution.

The president has announced general elections on July 14.

"We will return to the capital triumphantly with the support of masses," Sharif vowed as the emotional crowd responded with slogans against Ishaq Khan, 78.

Claiming the dismissal has endangered Pakistan's economy, Sharif, 43, condemned the president's action and vowed to fight back in the courts. He also appealed to the people to rise against the "illegal action."

The train left some 20 minutes behind schedule on the 270 kilometer (168 miles) long journey to his home city of Lahore.

En route he is scheduled to address whistlestop rallies throughout Punjab Province, whose dense population makes it crucial in elections.

Earlier a full bench of the Lahore High Court had amitted a petition challenging the dissolution of the National Assembly.

The petition, filed by Gauhar Ayub Khan, speaker of the defunct assembly, seeks suspension of presidential proclamation and permission to convene the assembly.

Ayub Khan contended that the dissolution order was "ultra vires, malafide, arbitrary and without any lawful authority."

The court, the second highest in the country, issued notices to the Federation of Pakistan for its next hearing on May 3.

The petitioner has named Ishaq Khan as respondent in the case, but the law exempts the head of state from appearing personally in the court.

The court has directed the attorney general of Pakistan to file a written reply to the petition within a week.

Political Leaders Hold Talks With President

BK2004145493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] The convener of the National Democratic Alliance, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan at the Aiwan-i-Sadr [presidential palace] this morning. During the meeting, various political issues, including forthcoming general elections, came under discussion. A four-member delegation of Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam, Fazlur Rahman group, led by Maulana Fazlur Rahman, also called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and discussed with him the prevailing political situation in the country. Matters relating to the holding of free, fair, and impartial elections on 14 July were also discussed during the meeting. Chairman of National People's Party, Jatoi group, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi also called on the president and exchanged views with him on various aspects of the current situation prevailing in the country.

Daily: Khan's Action Against Sharif 'Necessary'

BK2004105193 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 20 Apr 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Dissolution and After"]

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has dissolved the National Assembly and dismissed the Nawaz Sharif cabinet and appointed a caretaker government to look after the affairs of the state until the next election. The decision taken brings to an end the political crisis which had aggravated over the last one month. During this period a painful state of extreme anxiety, unrest and uncertainty was prevailing in the country. As the president said, it had become necessary for him to take this action in light of the threat to the integrity and solidarity of the country and to avert the constitutional, political and economic crisis facing it. A caretaker cabinet has been sworn in and the date of 14 July has been fixed for national elections.

For quite sometime the president had been urging Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif to take urgent steps to resolve the grave internal and international problems facing the country. Instead, he chose to divert the people's attention from the main issues confronting Pakistan and a few

days ago made a speech over the electronic media in which he hurled charges against the head of the state. This was unprecedented in our parliamentary history. Polarisation and confrontation between the two highest offices of state can only bring harm to the country and do serious damage to our nascent democracy. This state of affairs could not be allowed to continue. The stance adopted by Mr. Nawaz Sharif was one of unrelenting confrontation and the president was left with no option but to dismiss his cabinet in order to arrest the drift towards extreme confusion and instability in national life. The plummeting stock exchange and shares, flight of capital were clear evidence of where the country was being led to.

Mr. Balkh Sher Mazari has been sworn in as the caretaker prime minister. A seasoned politician, he is a non-controversial figure and enjoys the confidence of all sections of society. Since a firm date has already been announced for fresh election, it is for him and his cabinet to start making preparations for the same. Pakistan came into being through the democratic process and it is by adhering to democratic norms that it can hope to survive and progress. Prime Minister Balkh Sher Mazari and his colleagues have a challenging task ahead of them. They will be required to create the necessary conditions, including improvement of the law and order situation, for the holding of fair and free elections in a peaceful atmosphere. In going about the task, they will enjoy the full blessing and support of the people of Pakistan.

Urdu Daily on Government Dismissal

BK2004153393 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 20 Apr 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Stability, Not Disorder—the Need of the Hour"]

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, using his discretionary powers under the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution, has dismissed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's duly elected civilian and democratic government and dissolved the National Assembly. Mir Balkh Sher Mazari has been appointed the leader of the caretaker government. After Nawaz Sharif's fiery speech the other day, it was commonly believed that since the prime minister has been allowed to deliver his speech, the assemblies will not be dissolved, but a no- confidence motion will be brought into the National Assembly to prove the falsity of Nawaz Sharif's claim of having a majority in the house. This anticipation had gained ground more because the president has always declared himself to be a principled, democracy- loving, and law-abiding person and in his midnight speech the other night, he again reiterated this claim and prayed: "May God keep Pakistan safe and help promote democracy in the country, because Pakistan and democracy are inseparable."

In light of this claim, what was evidently necessary was to defeat an elected prime minister on the floor of the National Assembly and make him sit on opposition benches and later start the process of accountability or whatever was essential against him. This would have at least proved that a democratic political process is continuing in the country and under this impression, everyone would have accepted the political and governmental change. But, everything contrary to that line of thought has been done and the president, after a hasty meeting with the opposition leader, delivered the "good news" of the dismissal of the government and the dissolution of the assemblies to the nation in spite of the fact that the National Assembly session had already been summoned. Thus, contrary to the public opinion both within and outside the country, the president made a political leader out of Nawaz Sharif, a person who, according to the president's own list of charges, had lost the confidence of both the Cabinet and the members of the National Assembly. The fact is that nobody has abandoned the government except for just eight ministers and advisers within a very big cabinet.

On the other hand, the president made exactly the same accusations in August 1990 against the opposition leader—with whom he has now reached a hasty compromise—and had lawsuits filed in Superior Courts in this connection. These lawsuits are still pending in these courts. As a matter of principle, the new government should at least make sure that the president's old list of charges and lawsuits pending in courts against Benazir Bhutto and her party are disposed of, so that it does not give anyone the opportunity to say that the other party, which was earlier charged with committing similar crimes for which the Nawaz Sharif government has been dismissed, has been included in the new government.

There is no doubt that by using the backdoor to return to power, Benazir Bhutto has contradicted her democratic claims and disappointed her democracy-loving followers. It was her feudal background, and not her political leadership, that impelled her to put democratic principles on the back burner; and the latest political and governmental change that has occurred in the country is another name for the return of traditional feudal politics in Pakistan. During the past few years, the country's educated people from its business and industrial sectors, like Nawaz Sharif, had tried to eliminate these feudal politics, but the sector representing the country's feudal lords and big landlords evidently foiled these efforts with the active cooperation of the Establishment [preceding word in English] and returned to power the prominent feudal families. Benazir Bhutto's compromise also reflects that she only cares for her immediate interests. But the maximum benefit she can derive from this compromise will be that unlike before—when she went into the National Assembly as the single largest party—she can possibly only win a simple majority in the elections this time. The fact, however, remains that as long as the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution exists, every future elected government will continue to be handicapped and will be sent packing after some time.

We have been stressing this fact in these columns and Benazir Bhutto has also been saying that as long as the

Eighth Amendment exists, a democratic parliamentary system cannot flourish in Pakistan. In the past, General Ziaul Haq could not go along with the prime minister and the system he had himself created. Ghulam Ishaq Khan has already used his powers under the Eighth Amendment twice. In this manner, an elected democratic government is dismissed every two or two and half years, which causes political instability within the country and Pakistan loses its stature and prestige in the world. The BBC has been repeatedly broadcasting the sentence that even after the lapse of half a century, Pakistan has not been able to [words indistinct] democracy, that a democratic parliamentary system has failed to take root, and that the will and discretion of one single person reign supreme there. I.K. Gujral, the former Indian external affairs minister, has also made similar comments.

National Assembly Speaker Gauhar Ayub Khan has filed a writ petition in the Rawalpindi Bench of the High Court, claiming that since he has not received the resignations of the members of the National Assembly, he should be allowed to convene the assembly session that was summoned for 19 April. In the past, too, the dismissal of the governments and the dissolution of the assemblies through the dictatorial actions and orders of a president, governor general, or any chief martial law administrator under the Eighth Amendment has been challenged in superior courts and the courts' verdicts are before the nation and the president as an historical record. The best course for the president was not to wave the sword of the Eighth Amendment but to let Nawaz Sharif face defeat on the floor of the National Assembly during its 19 April session. In this manner, the nation would have itself witnessed the denouement, and long debates and protracted court proceedings would have been avoided. Also, the person who, according to the president, had no political mentality and no majority in the assembly and who was still considered to be the protege of the martial law regime, would not have become the standard bearer of political democracy overnight.

Honor and indignity are in the hands of Almighty God. But, the manner in which the Eighth Amendment has disgraced and dishonored the country and the way in which it has made a hero out of its victim, it can only be described as [words indistinct]. Only time will tell how far the caretaker government, formed in the name of a national coalition government, will be successful in holding fair and impartial elections and eliminating lawlessness, bribery, nepotism, and other social evils within a short span of three months; but, undoubtedly, it has set a very heavy agenda for itself. It is expected of the caretaker government that it will not adopt a policy of vengeance and will follow a clean democratic system in the country, which will do good to a great many people.

Delegation Departs for Turkish President's Funeral

BK2004152493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 20 Apr 93

[Text] A 30-member delegation led by the Chairman Senate, Mr. Wasim Sajjad, left Islamabad for Ankara today to represent Pakistan at the funeral ceremony of the late Turkish president, Mr. Turgut Ozal. The delegation comprises the Chairman Joint Chief of Staff Committee General Shamim Alam Khan; Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Farooq Firoze Khan; Vice Chief of Naval Staff (Syed Iftikhar Hussain); several political leaders, including Begum Nusrat Bhutto, Mr. Bizen Bizenjo, Air Marshal Retired Asghar Khan, Maulana Shah Aman Noorani, Mr. Mahmood Khan Achakzai, Malik Mohammad Qasim, Professor Dr. Tahirul Qadri, Mr. Mohammad Ajmal Khattak, Senator Iqbal Haider, Lieutenant General Ghulam Mohammad Malik, and Haji Fakir Mohammad; and senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Senate Committee Warns Against 'Disinterest'

BK2104014293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0100 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] The Senate's Standing Committee on regulations, procedures and privileges has strong notice of the disinterest shown by some officials of the government in questions asked by the parliamentary committees and members of parliament. The committee has asked these officials to give priority to the parliamentary deliberations above all other matters. The committee held its meeting in Islamabad yesterday. It was presided over by Senator Iqbal Ahmed Khan. The meeting also considered two motions of privileges.

Navy Negotiating Purchase of UK Helicopters, Ship

BK2104024493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 21 Apr 93

[Text] The Pakistan Navy will soon acquire new types of helicopters used in the naval ships. Addressing a ceremony in connection with the in-flight security operations demonstration by Pakistan Navy's planes on board the PNS [Pakistan Naval Ship] Mehran, Naval Chief Admiral Sayeed M. Khan said that, despite economic difficulties, negotiations are on with Britain to acquire a squadron of Sea Lynx helicopters and Type-21 [preceding word in English] naval ship.